APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY UTAH TO CHANGE THE INFRASTRUCTURE RATE ADJUSTMENT Docket No. 19-057-28 APPLICATION

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> APPLICATION AND EXHIBITS

November 1, 2019

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

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Questar Gas Company dba Dominion Energy Utah (Dominion Energy or the Company) respectfully submits this Application to the Utah Public Service Commission (Commission) and thereby seeks to modify the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment to the Distribution Non-Gas (DNG) cost portions of its Utah GS, FS, IS, TSF and TSI, TBF, MT, and NGV natural gas rate schedules, pursuant to section 2.07 of the Company's Utah Natural Gas Tariff No. 500 (Tariff).

If the Commission grants this Application, a typical GS residential customer using 80 decatherms per year will see an increase in their yearly bills of \$1.98 (or 0.31%). The Company proposes to implement this request by charging the new rates effective December 1, 2019.

In support of this Application, Dominion Energy states:

1. <u>Dominion Energy's Operations</u>. Dominion Energy, a Utah corporation, is a public utility engaged in the distribution of natural gas primarily to customers in the states of Utah and Wyoming. Its Utah public utility activities are regulated by the Commission, and the Company's charges and general conditions for natural gas service in Utah are set forth in the Tariff. Copies of the Company's Articles of Incorporation are on file with the Commission. In addition, the Company serves customers in Franklin County, Idaho. Under the terms of an agreement between the Commission and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, the rates for these Idaho customers are determined by the Commission. Volumes for these customers have been included in the Utah volumes.

<u>Settlement Stipulation Order</u>. On page 8 of the Report and Order dated February 21,
2014 in Docket No. 13-057-05, the Commission authorized Dominion Energy to continue the

infrastructure rate adjustment tracker pilot program ("Program") and §2.07 of the Tariff sets forth procedures for recovering costs associated with replacing aging infrastructure.

<u>Test Year</u>. The test year for this Application is the 12 months ending November 30, 2020.

4. <u>Calculation of Revenue Requirement</u>. Exhibit 1.1, pages 1 through 3 show the total amount closed to investment and in service from January 2018 through October 2019 for each of the infrastructure replacement projects. Lines 1 through 45 show the investment in both high pressure and intermediate high pressure projects. Lines 46-50 show the amounts retired from investment. Line 53 shows, by month, the cumulative plant balance of high pressure and intermediate high pressure plant. Line 54 shows the same cumulative plant balance less the \$84 million¹ threshold set forth in Docket No. 13-057-05 before applying for cost recovery of tracker related investment/costs.

a) Exhibit 1.1, page 4, shows a calculation of the revenue requirement. Page 4, line 1, shows the net investment closed through October 2019. Pursuant to paragraph 25 of the Settlement Stipulation in Docket No. 13-057-05, \$84 million is removed on line 2 because that amount was already included in rates. Lines 4 through 10 show the accumulated depreciation, accumulated deferred income tax, net replacement infrastructure, allowed pre-tax return, net depreciation expense, and net taxes other than income tax. The Company hired Gannett Fleming to conduct a Depreciation Study based on 2017 net plant information, and what resulted was a change in depreciation rates for some accounts, including the 376 account (Mains). The previous rate for this account was 2.14%, but the new rate that was agreed upon in the settlement stipulation of Docket No. 19-057-03 is 1.93% and will go into effect beginning in March 2020. The calculation of the revenue requirement reflects this change. The revenue requirement using the old depreciation rate would have been \$3,437,664. Using the new rate reduces the revenue requirement by \$559,144.

b) Line 13 shows the final adjusted revenue requirement of \$37,471,127, an increase of \$2,881,010 from the previous infrastructure rate-adjustment filing as shown on line 15. The amount

¹ In the Company's last general rate case, Docket No. 13-057-05, the Commission approved the Partial Settlement Stipulation in which the parties agreed that the Company would defer "tracking of infrastructure costs until \$84 million of infrastructure investment is reached." Report and Order dated February 1, 2014, Docket No. 13-057-05, p. 8, ¶ 2.g.

shown on line 13 will be collected from each rate schedule according to the currently allowed cost-ofservice and rate design calculations as discussed below.

5. <u>Cost of Service</u>. Exhibit 1.2 shows the allocation of the revenue requirement to each class. Section 2.07 of the Tariff states that "the Surcharge will be assigned to each rate class based on the Commission-approved total pro rata share of the DNG tariff revenue ordered in the most recent general rate case." Column A shows the DNG revenue requirement by class ordered by the Commission in Docket No. 13-057-19. Column B shows the percent of the total revenue requirement by class and column C shows the total infrastructure replacement revenue to be collected from each class.

6. <u>Rate Design</u>. Exhibit 1.3 shows the rate design for the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment surcharge component of the DNG rates. Section 2.07 of the Company's Tariff states that "the Surcharge assigned to each class will be collected based on a percentage change to the demand charge, if applicable, and each block of volumetric rates of the respective rate schedules." The Tax Surcredit was included as part of the Base DNG rate in Column F to reflect the change in the federal income tax rate per the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in 2017. Columns E and F are combined when applying the percent increase in column I to calculate the rate in column J. Column G shows the projected volumetric revenue for each class using base DNG rates and volumes for the 12 months ending November 2019 test year. Column H shows the amount of infrastructure replacement tracker revenue that needs to be collected from each class. Column I shows the percentage change to each block and demand charge since the approved continuation of the tracker adjustment in Docket No. 13-057-05. Column J shows the proposed rates for each rate schedule.

7. <u>Change in Typical Customer's Bill.</u> The annualized change in rates calculated in this Application results in an increase of \$1.98 per year (or 0.31%), as shown in Exhibit 1.4.

8. <u>Legislative and Proposed Tariff Sheets.</u> Exhibit 1.5 shows the proposed Tariff rate schedules that reflect the updated infrastructure rate adjustment as explained in paragraphs 4 through 6.

9. <u>Combined Legislative and Proposed Tariff Sheets.</u> In addition to this Infrastructure Tracker Application, the Company is also filing an Energy Efficiency Rate Adjustment Application

(Docket No. 19-057-29). Exhibit 1.6 shows the combined Tariff rate schedules that reflect the updated infrastructure rate adjustment, and the energy efficiency adjustment filed concurrently with this filing.

10. <u>Exhibits.</u> Dominion Energy submits the following exhibits in support of its request to include the infrastructure rate adjustment:

Exhibit 1.1	DEU Infrastructure Replacement Project Summary & Calculation of Revenue Requirement
Exhibit 1.2	Cost of Service Allocation
Exhibit 1.3	Infrastructure Tracker Rate Calculation
Exhibit 1.4	Effect on GS Typical Customer
Exhibit 1.5	Legislative and Proposed Tariff Sheets
Exhibit 1.6	Combined Legislative and Proposed Tariff Sheets

WHEREFORE, Dominion Energy respectfully requests that the Commission, in accordance with the Report and Order approving the Settlement Stipulation in Docket No. 13-057-05 and the Company's Tariff:

1. Enter an order authorizing Dominion Energy to change rates and charges applicable to its Utah natural gas service that reflect an adjustment to the rates for each class as more fully set forth in this Application.

2. Authorize Dominion Energy to implement the revised rates effective December 1,

2019.

DATED this 1st day of November 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

DOMINION ENERGY UTAH

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