

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY UTAH FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE INTERMOUNTAIN INDUSTRIAL ASSESSMENT CENTER	Docket No. 19-057-33
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AMENDED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KODY M. POWELL, PH.D.

FOR DOMINION ENERGY UTAH

DEU Exhibit 2.0

June 11, 2020

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I. INTRODUCTION

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Kody M. Powell. My business address is 50 S. Central Campus Drive, MEB Room 3290, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

A. I am employed by the University of Utah as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering. I am also the Director of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center (IIAC). In addition to directing this center, I am also the principal investigator for several research projects related to energy systems, including projects sponsored by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE's Office of Fossil Energy, PacifiCorp Energy, and the Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development. I am also a co-Principal Investigator on a project sponsored by DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. My testimony supports Dominion Energy Utah's (Dominion Energy or the Company) proposed partnership with the University of Utah Department of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Assessment Center (IIAC) described in the Application, and discussed in the testimony of Michael A. Orton. The Company's filing respectfully requests the Commission approve the funding requested for the proposed partnership with the University of Utah Department of Chemical Engineering and IIAC pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 54-4-13.1 and 54-20-105.

23 **II. BENEFIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH IN THE APPLICATION**

24 **Q. How was the University of Utah selected for this Application?**

25 A. The University of Utah’s IIAC program is a DOE-recognized regional authority on the
26 topic of industrial energy efficiency. This program is the result of a competitive grant
27 program from DOE itself, a process which was open to all universities in the State of
28 Utah.

29 **Q. Is the University of Utah a trusted source?**

30 A. Yes. Our program is not-for-profit and is technology agnostic. Our team is comprised of
31 engineers with advanced degrees and nationally-recognized professional engineering
32 certifications. Our mission is to identify the lowest cost ways to reduce energy usage and
33 operating costs for local businesses. As an independent third party, we will work with
34 technology vendors to find the best technology solutions that result in the most cost-
35 effective use of funds to improve Utah’s air quality. We will also use our expertise to
36 verify the savings estimates from each vendor and assure that they are accurate.

37 **Q. Does the University of Utah leverage funding for this Application?**

38 A. Yes. Our program operates on a \$1.85M grant from the U.S. DOE. This funding is
39 currently used solely for doing energy assessments at manufacturing facilities. New
40 funding from the Dominion STEP program will utilize and expand the existing
41 infrastructure. The expanded program will do much more than energy assessments,
42 including: identify and facilitate specific installation projects, conduct research on each
43 project, develop markets in Utah for the expansion of these technologies, develop vendor
44 relationships and streamlined processes for technology deployment, publish case studies

45 with the details of each project, analyze the long-term impact of all projects on Utah's air
46 quality, etc.

47 **Q. What is the proposed process of the University of Utah?**

48 A. The University of Utah will promote the opportunity for Dominion customers to receive a
49 no-cost energy assessment from the IIAC. On each assessment, the IIAC will identify
50 energy, emissions, and cost-saving measures for companies. The IIAC will report back
51 these recommendations to each company. High impact projects that may require a
52 subsidy will be considered for an incentive. For each of these projects, the University of
53 Utah will consult with Dominion Energy and will seek STEP funds to incentivize these
54 projects. Approved projects will be overseen by the University of Utah. This includes
55 soliciting competitive bids from vendors, verifying technological claims by each vendor,
56 project management, and ongoing research for each project. The University of Utah will
57 remain involved in each project for its duration and will quantify the long-term air quality
58 benefits, publish case studies, work to streamline processes for new applications, and
59 help develop the technology market so that new applications will not require the same
60 level of incentive.

61 **Q. How does the program interface with other large Utah utilities?**

62 A. The IIAC program is actively engaged with all large Utah utilities. Each is on the
63 program's advisory committee. The IIAC also regularly hosts representatives from the
64 largest electric utility in the state on assessments.

65 **Q. How is workforce development incorporated in the application?**

66 A. While the program is run by degreed professionals, the IIAC works heavily with
67 engineering students as a training program. These students receive regular training, attend

68 assessments, perform calculations, and interface with customers. Nationally speaking,
69 employers actively seek out IAC alumni to hire in professional energy efficiency roles¹.

70 **III. CONCLUSION**

71 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

72 **A. Yes.**


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¹ <https://www.energy.gov/eere/amo/industrial-assessment-centers-iacs>

State of Utah)
) ss.
County of Salt Lake)

I, Kody M. Powell, being first duly sworn on oath, state that the answers in the foregoing written testimony are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Except as stated in the testimony, the exhibits attached to the testimony were prepared by me or under my direction and supervision, and they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Any exhibits not prepared by me or under my direction and supervision are true and correct copies of the documents they purport to be.



Kody M. Powell

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO this 11th day of June, 2020.



Notary Public

