

In the Matter Of:

In Re: DEU - CET Account, Low Income Assistance, EE Account, & Infrastructure R

HEARING , DOCKET NO. 17-057-15, 16, 17, 18

September 29, 2017

Job Number: 420303

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

2 APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY UTAH Docket No. 17-057-15
3 TO AMORTIZE THE CONSERVATION
4 ENABLING TARIFF BALANCING ACCOUNT

5 APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY UTAH Docket No. 17-057-16
6 FOR A TARIFF CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT
7 TO THE LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE/
8 ENERGY ASSISTANCE RATE

9 APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY UTAH Docket No. 17-057-17
10 TO AMORTIZE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY
11 DEFERRED ACCOUNT BALANCE

12 APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY UTAH Docket No. 17-057-18
13 TO CHANGE THE INFRASTRUCTURE RATE
14 ADJUSTMENT

15

16

HEARING PROCEEDINGS

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18 TAKEN AT: Utah Public Service Commission
19 4th Floor
20 160 East 300 South
21 Salt Lake City, Utah

22 DATE: Friday, September 29th, 2017

23 TIME: 9:00 a.m.

24 REPORTER: Mary R. Honigman, R.P.R.

25 LST Job #420303

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30 Job No. 420303

1 APPEARANCES

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:
Michael Hammer

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4 FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:
Patricia E. Schmid
160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor
5 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

6 FOR THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES:
Steven W. Snarr
7 160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

8

9 FOR DOMINION ENERGY UTAH:
Jenniffer Nelson Clark
10 333 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145
11 (801) 324-5329

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1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 OFFICER HAMMER: Good morning,
3 everyone. This is the time and place noticed for
4 hearing in the Application of Dominion Energy Utah
5 to Amortize the Conservation Enabling Tariff
6 Balancing Account, the Application of Dominion
7 Energy Utah for a Tariff Change and Adjustment to
8 the Low Income Assistance/Energy Assistance Rate,
9 the Application of Dominion Energy Utah to Amortize
10 the Energy Efficiency Deferred Account Balance, and
11 the Application of Dominion Energy Utah to Change
12 the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment. Those are
13 Commission Docket Nos. 17-057-15 through 17-057-17.
14 My name is Michael Hammer and I am the Commission's
15 designated presiding officer. Let's go ahead and
16 take appearances, please.

17 MS. CLARK: Jenniffer Clark. I'm an
18 attorney here on behalf of the Company, and I have
19 with me Mr. Kelly Mendenhall, who will serve as the
20 Company's witness in the 15, 16, and 17 dockets, and
21 Jordan Stevenson, who will serve as the Company's
22 witness in the 18 docket.

23 MS. SCHMID: Good morning.
24 Patricia E. Schmid with the Attorney General's
25 Office for the Division. Eric Orton is the

1 Division's witness for the four dockets. Thank you.

2 MR. SNARR: My name is
3 Steven Snarr. I'm an Assistant Attorney General
4 representing the Office of Consumer Services. With
5 me today is Gavin Mangelson, who will serve as the
6 witness or spokesperson for the Office.

7 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Before
8 we begin, let me ask the parties how they prefer to
9 proceed with the presentation of evidence. We have
10 four dockets pending. Do we want to run through
11 them one at a time, or would the Company prefer to
12 present its evidence with respect to all four
13 dockets at once?

14 MS. CLARK: We're happy to proceed in
15 any fashion the other parties feel would be
16 convenient.

17 MS. SCHMID: The Division has no
18 preference.

19 MR. SNARR: We have no preference.

20 OFFICER HAMMER: I suppose my
21 preference would be that we do all four dockets at
22 the same time if there's no objection.

23 MS. CLARK: No objection.

24 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

25 MR. SNARR: No objection.

1 OFFICER HAMMER: Does Counsel
2 anticipate there will any cross-examination?

3 MS. CLARK: I don't plan any for the
4 other witnesses.

5 MS. SCHMID: Nothing from the
6 Division.

7 MR. SNARR: Nothing from the Office.

8 OFFICER HAMMER: Then I'll ask that
9 the witnesses go ahead and remain seated at
10 Counsel's table for their convenience. With that, I
11 think we can begin. Go ahead, Ms. Clark.

12 MS. CLARK: We would like to swear
13 both of our witnesses in, and we can just proceed in
14 sequence. I have Mr. Mendenhall and Mr. Stevenson.

15 KELLY B. MENDENHALL AND JORDAN STEVENSON,
16 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, were
17 examined and testified as follows:

18 MS. CLARK: If it's all right, we'll
19 start with Mr. Mendenhall and the first three
20 dockets that we're discussing today.

21 BY MS. CLARK:

22 Q Can you state your name and business
23 address?

24 A Yes. My name is Kelly B. Mendenhall, and
25 my business address is 333 South State Street, Salt

1 Lake City, Utah.

2 Q And with regard to the Low Income
3 Application, 17-057-16, was this application and the
4 accompanying exhibits prepared by you or under your
5 direction?

6 A Yes, it was.

7 Q Could you please summarize the Company's
8 request for relief in this docket?

9 A Do you want me to start with the 16
10 docket, or do you want me to start with the 15
11 docket?

12 Q I'm sorry, the 15 docket. My apologies.

13 A In Docket 17-057-15, the Application of
14 Dominion Energy Utah to Amortize the Conservation
15 Enabling Tariff Balancing Account, the Company
16 proposes to leave the current amortization rate at
17 zero. Section 2.08 of the Company's tariff requires
18 the Company to file a CET Amortization Application
19 at least annually with the Commission, and this
20 filing meets that requirement. While there is
21 currently an over-collected balance of just under
22 2 million in the balancing account, instead of
23 returning the over-collection to customers at this
24 time, the Company would prefer to use that balance
25 to offset under-collections caused by decreased

1 usage per customer. Leaving the amortization rate
2 at zero will result in no impact to any customer's
3 bill. And that concludes my summary on that docket.

4 MS. CLARK: The Company would move
5 for the admission of the application and
6 accompanying exhibits, DEU Exhibits 1.1, 1.2, and
7 1.3 into the record.

8 OFFICER HAMMER: They're admitted.

9 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

10 BY MS. CLARK:

11 Q Mr. Mendenhall, now I'd like to move to
12 the 16 docket, the Low Income docket. Again, my
13 apologies. Was the application and accompanying
14 exhibits in this docket prepared by you or under
15 your direction?

16 A Yes, they were.

17 Q Do you have any corrections?

18 A I do. As mentioned in the Office's
19 comments on this docket, I have a change in Exhibit
20 1.3. Exhibit 1.3 are some -- includes some tariff
21 pages that were standalone tariff pages that showed,
22 for illustrative purposes, what the change to the
23 Energy Assistance rate would be. And as was pointed
24 out and mentioned by the Office, the effective date
25 on those tariff sheets was incorrect. So I just

1 want to make a change there. On page 2-3, 2-5, 2-6,
2 4-4, 5-9, 5-11, and 5-13, the effective date was
3 incorrectly stated as September 1, 2017, and that
4 should read October 1, 2017. And as I mentioned
5 earlier, the actual tariff sheets we're asking the
6 Commission to approve are shown in Exhibit 1.5 and
7 those tariff sheets are correct. So it was just
8 this set of illustrative tariff sheets that needed
9 to be changed. And that's all the changes I want to
10 make on this docket.

11 **Q Could you please summarize the relief the**
12 **Company seeks in this docket?**

13 A Sure. In this docket, 17-057-16, the
14 Application of Dominion Energy Utah for a Tariff
15 Change and Adjustment to the Low Income
16 Assistance/Energy Assistance Rate, Dominion Energy
17 Utah is proposing to make changes to the Energy
18 Assistance Rate, and these changes will result in a
19 6 cent or 1/100 of a percent reduction to the
20 typical customer's bill.

21 The Company is also proposing to increase
22 the Annual Energy Assistance credit to \$72.50 per
23 qualifying customer per year. It's projected there
24 will be about \$1.8 million available to help
25 qualifying customers pay their gas bills during the

1 winter heating season, and it is anticipated that
2 about 24,000 customers will participate in this
3 program during the 2017-2018 test period. The
4 Company proposes that these changes be made
5 effective October 1, 2017. And that concludes my
6 summary.

7 MS. CLARK: And the Company would
8 request the admission of the application in this
9 matter along with accompanying Exhibits 1.1 through
10 1.5 as corrected in the testimony today.

11 OFFICER HAMMER: They are admitted.

12 BY MS. CLARK:

13 Q Mr. Mendenhall, moving on to the Energy
14 Efficiency docket. Again, I would ask you, is this
15 application and the accompanying exhibits, were they
16 all prepared by you or under your direction?

17 A Yes, they were.

18 Q And do you have any corrections to any of
19 those materials?

20 A I do. So the Division raised a couple of
21 items in their memo that I'd like to address and
22 change in the filing. So if we turn to page 2 of
23 the filing, the first sentence, it reads, "Questar
24 Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Utah respectfully
25 submits this application to the Utah Public Service

1 Commission for approval to continue the current
2 amortization of the Energy Efficiency Deferred
3 Account Balance." We're not proposing to continue,
4 we're proposing to actually increase. So that
5 should read, "Questar Gas d/b/a Dominion Energy Utah
6 respectfully submits this application to the Utah
7 Public Service Commission for approval to increase
8 the amortization of the Energy Efficiency Deferred
9 Account Balance." So just to summarize, we're going
10 to strike the word "continue" and replace it with
11 "increase," and then we're going to strike the word
12 "current."

13 And then along those same lines, if we
14 turn to page 5, on paragraph 1 of page 5, we make
15 the statement, "enter an order authorizing Dominion
16 Energy Utah to continue to assess the same rates,"
17 we should strike there "continue to assess the
18 same," and replace it with "increase." And then
19 continuing on in that sentence, it says, "rates and
20 charges applicable to its Utah natural gas service
21 territory using the same amortization," we should
22 strike the word "same." So just to summarize, I'm
23 going to read that sentence again. So it should
24 read, "enter an order authorizing Dominion Energy
25 Utah to increase rates and charges applicable to its

1 Utah natural gas service territory using the
2 amortization for the Energy Efficiency Deferred
3 Account Balance."

4 One other change. So on September 19, the
5 Company filed Exhibit 1.5U that corrected the
6 typical bill calculation, and so just to make the
7 application consistent with that exhibit, on the
8 second sentence of page 2 where it reads, "If the
9 Commission grants this application, typical
10 residential customers using 80 decatherms per year
11 will see an increase in their yearly bills of," and
12 it says, "\$1.11." That should read, "\$1.07," and
13 instead of "4.16 percent," that should read
14 "15 percent." And that concludes all of my changes
15 to the application.

16 **Q And then, in the interest of a complete**
17 **record, Mr. Mendenhall, you reference the submission**
18 **of corrected Exhibit 1.5U, and I would also note the**
19 **Company filed reply comments in this docket. Were**
20 **both of those documents prepared by you or under**
21 **your direction?**

22 **A Yes, they were.**

23 **Q Would you please summarize the relief the**
24 **Company seeks?**

25 **A Certainly. In Docket 17-057-17, the**

1 Application of Dominion Energy Utah to Amortize the
2 Demand-Side Management Energy Efficiency Deferred
3 Account Balance, the Company proposes to increase
4 the amortization rate from 19 cents to 20 cents in
5 an effort to collect the projected expenses during
6 the test period. While at the same time minimizing
7 interest expense for both customers and the Company.

8 In the Commission's December 16, 2016,
9 order memorializing bench ruling in
10 Docket No. 16-057-11, it stated, "With respect to
11 the DSM/EE Application, we note the Office's
12 opposition to semiannual DSM/EE filings. We also
13 note that absent from the DSM/EE Application is an
14 explanation of how DSM/EE rates set to collect
15 approximately 20.551 million are sufficient to
16 address annual DSM/EE budget of over 24 million. We
17 direct Dominion to address these issues in its next
18 DSM/EE filing." The Company did not address these
19 issues in the original filing, but we address them
20 in our reply comments, and I wanted to summarize
21 those comments. What we said, basically, was the
22 ultimate goal of the rate calculation in this docket
23 is to minimize interest expense. And due to a
24 variety of factors, such as the rate period covering
25 two calendar years, the timing of when those costs

1 and the collection are coming into the balance, and
2 the fact that there is a balance when the rate is
3 calculated, all of those factors have an impact on
4 what the rate will be. So our ultimate goal here is
5 to calculate a rate that will minimize interest
6 expense. And, actually, if we were to set the
7 rate -- we went back and looked through -- if we
8 were to set the rate to collect the budget -- for
9 example, this year the budget is 25 million
10 dollars -- we would actually have an increase in
11 interest expense. And so for those reasons, we
12 definitely have included the budget amounts in the
13 projected filing or projected costs, but because our
14 ultimate goal here is to minimize interest expense,
15 that's why the rate is calculated as it was. And so
16 for that reason, the Company believes the rate is
17 just and reasonable because it will result in
18 reduced interest expense and interest income.

19 So for this reason, the Company asks that
20 the Commission approve this rate and ask that it be
21 made effective October 1, 2017. That summarizes the
22 filing.

23 MS. CLARK: Thank you,
24 Mr. Mendenhall. If we can, we'll move on to
25 Mr. Stevenson and talk about Docket 17-057-18.

1 BY MS. CLARK:

2 Q Mr. Stevenson, could you please state your
3 name and business address for the record?

4 A Yes. Jordan Stevenson, and my business
5 address is 333 South State, Salt Lake City, Utah.

6 Q What position do you hold with Dominion
7 Energy?

8 A I'm a regulatory analyst.

9 Q And were the application and accompanying
10 exhibits in this docket prepared by you or under
11 your direction?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Do you have any corrections?

14 A No.

15 Q Mr. Stevenson, would you please summarize
16 the relief the Company requests in this docket?

17 A Yes. In this docket, the Company seeks to
18 adjust the Infrastructure Tracker Replacement Rate
19 to include approximately \$48 million of investment
20 related to replacement projects that were in service
21 as of August 31st, 2017. The majority of this
22 additional investment occurred in the feeder line
23 and Salt Lake Belt Main projects. The Company is
24 requesting a \$5.9 million increase in annual revenue
25 related to this investment. If approved, this would

1 result in an increase of \$3.93 per year, or
2 .57 percent paid by a typical customer using 80
3 decatherms per year. That is the impact if this
4 docket is considered in isolation.

5 I just wanted to mention what the total
6 impact is of all these dockets that we have
7 discussed so far today. The Company has filed three
8 other dockets we've discussed. The combined total
9 impact on a typical customer of all four dockets
10 considered collectively is \$4.87 per year, or
11 .7 percent. And this concludes my summary.

12 MS. CLARK: Thank you. At this time,
13 the Company would move for the admission -- and I'm
14 going to go back to the last docket because I
15 neglected to do this -- in docket 17-057-17, the
16 Energy Efficiency Docket, the Company would move for
17 the admission of the application and accompanying
18 Exhibits 1.1 through 1.6, the submission of
19 corrected Exhibit 1.5U and the reply to comments,
20 and the Company would also, in Docket 17-057-18,
21 move for the admission of the application and
22 accompanying Exhibits 1.1 through 1.6.

23 OFFICER HAMMER: They're admitted.

24 MS. CLARK: Thank you. The Company's
25 witnesses are available for any questions you may

1 have.

2 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Now that
3 we've heard from Dominion's witnesses, I'll just
4 confirm with Ms. Schmid that she has no
5 cross-examination?

6 MS. SCHMID: That is correct.

7 OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

8 MR. SNARR: No cross-examination.

9 OFFICER HAMMER: And I have no
10 questions. Thank you, Ms. Clark.

11 MS. CLARK: The Company has nothing
12 further.

13 OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid.

14 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The Division
15 would like to call its witness, Mr. Eric Orton. May
16 he please be sworn?

17 ERIC ORTON,
18 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was
19 examined and testified as follows:

20 BY MS. SCHMID:

21 Q Good morning.

22 A Good morning.

23 Q Could you please state your full name,
24 employer, title, and business address for the
25 record?

1 A My name is Eric Orton. I'm employed by
2 the Utah Division of Public Utilities.

3 **Q And business address?**

4 A Thank you. 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake
5 City.

6 **Q In connection with your employment at the**
7 **Division, did you participate on behalf of the**
8 **Division in these four dockets?**

9 A I did.

10 **Q Could you please generally summarize what**
11 **the Division did as part of its analysis in these**
12 **four dockets?**

13 A Certainly. We reviewed, of course, the
14 applications, we checked some of the math, spoke
15 with company representatives, went through the
16 calculations on the tariff sheets.

17 **Q Are the Division's recommendations and a**
18 **more detailed description of its analysis contained**
19 **in the Division's Action Request Response filed with**
20 **the Commission on September 22, 2017?**

21 A That's correct. Those are the results of
22 our investigation.

23 **Q Do you have any changes or corrections to**
24 **this action request response?**

25 A I do. I have one number to correct. In

1 the section regarding the infrastructure tracker, I
2 have an incorrect number. The last line says, "A
3 typical GS customer will see an increase of \$3.92."
4 That's a typo; it should be \$3.93.

5 **Q With that correction, do you adopt the**
6 **Division's Action Request Response as your testimony**
7 **here today?**

8 A I do.

9 MS. SCHMID: The Division would
10 request the admission of the Division's Action
11 Request Response which covers all four dockets, 15,
12 16, 17, and 18.

13 OFFICER HAMMER: They're admitted.

14 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

15 BY MS. SCHMID:

16 **Q Mr. Orton, could you please summarize the**
17 **Division's recommendations on each of the four**
18 **dockets? And, in particular, could you specify**
19 **whether or not the Division is requesting interim or**
20 **final rate treatment in each of these dockets at**
21 **this time?**

22 A Yes. Thank you. So after a preliminary
23 review of the applications, the Division recommends
24 approval on an interim basis in
25 Docket Nos. 17-057-15, 17-057-17, and 17-057-18,

1 with an effective date of October 1st, 2017. The
2 Division also recommends that the Commission approve
3 the requested rate change in Docket No. 17-057-16,
4 the Low Income Assistance/Energy Assistance Rate.
5 This docket does not require an audit, and the
6 Division recommends final approval, not interim
7 approval.

8 Docket 17-057-15, Amortization of the
9 Conservation Enabling Tariff. This filing is
10 requesting to leave the current collection amount
11 unchanged, and leave the over-collected balance of
12 just under \$2 million in the account. The Company
13 proposes to leave this amount in the account as a
14 cushion to soften the impact of expected lower usage
15 of the customer. The Division does not object to
16 this balance remaining in the account as the Company
17 will pay interest to ratepayers on the balance. If
18 approved, a typical GS residential customer will see
19 no change in their bill as a result of the CET
20 filing.

21 Docket No. 15-057-16, Adjustment to the
22 Low Income Assistance/Energy Assistance Rate. This
23 is a request to adjust the collection rate in order
24 to collect and disperse the approval of 1.5 million
25 dollars annually. The proposed customer credit

1 will increase the distribution amount from \$70 to
2 \$72.50 per participant. If approved individually, a
3 typical GS residential customer will see a decrease
4 of approximately 6 cents or 0.01 percent in their
5 annual bill attributable to this program.

6 Docket 17-057-17, To Amortize the Energy
7 Efficiency Deferred Account Balance. Based on the
8 current balance, projected volumes, and energy
9 efficiency budget, the Company believes it can
10 collect the required revenue while minimizing
11 interest expense with a slight increase to the
12 amortization rate. The Company is requesting that
13 the amortization rate increase.

14 On September 18, 2017, the Company filed
15 an updated Exhibit 1.5 which altered the effect of
16 this filing. If approved by the Commission, the
17 typical GS rate class customer will see an increase
18 in their annual bill of \$1.07, or .15 percent -- not
19 the \$1.11, or .16 percent -- as originally filed.

20 Additionally, with respect to the
21 Commission's Supplemental Action Request, the
22 Division has reexamined the docket, the Commission's
23 order, and has had discussions with the Company and
24 has concluded that the balance in the account this
25 past spring was adequate and that the calculations

1 in this filing are appropriate. There was no need
2 for a filing this past spring, and adjustments to
3 this filing are not necessary. However, as far as
4 the Division is concerned, the DSM/EE account is
5 functioning as it should.

6 Finally, Infrastructure Tracker,
7 17-057-18, Request to Change Infrastructure Rate
8 Adjustment. In this filing, the Company shows the
9 amounts and dates of when infrastructure investment
10 was closed and placed into service since the last
11 filing. The Company now proposes to collect the
12 revenue requirements associated with these
13 investment amounts in rates. Exhibit 1.1 of the
14 filing provides a dollar amount showing the
15 infrastructure investment from September 2016
16 through August 2017. Page 4 of four in Exhibit 1.1
17 summarizes the preceding exhibit pages and shows the
18 calculations resulting in the incremental revenue
19 requirement requested of approximately 5.9 million
20 dollars. This amount, in addition to what is
21 already allowed to be collected, provides a total
22 proposed revenue requirement of \$25.3 million. If
23 this filing is approved, the typical GS residential
24 customer will see an increase of \$3.93, or
25 .57 percent.

1 If all four dockets are approved, the
2 combined annual rate increase to the average
3 customer will be \$4.87, or 0.70 percent. These
4 applications appear compliant with past Commission
5 orders, and the proposed and updated tariff sheets
6 accurately reflect those changes. The Division has
7 reviewed these filings along with their respective
8 exhibits and tentatively agrees with the methods
9 used by the Company. Therefore, the Division
10 recommends that the Commission approve the proposed
11 rates on an interim basis -- except for the
12 low-income docket which would be on a final basis --
13 until the Division can complete its audit, at which
14 time it will make a final recommendation to the
15 Commission.

16 This initial review, except for the
17 low-income docket, does not constitute the
18 Division's final post-audit position, which will be
19 presented when the Division submits the results of
20 its audits, which will be completed when the Company
21 closes its 2017 books.

22 **Q Mr. Orton, do you recall that earlier this**
23 **week we were before the Commission in another DEU**
24 **docket which addressed a Kern River peak hour**
25 **contract?**

1 A I was here.

2 Q Does that Kern River contract and any
3 transportation customer rates affect any of these
4 four dockets?

5 A No, it's independent.

6 Q Where would the Kern River docket, if you
7 know -- or the Kern River peak hour contract -- be
8 addressed?

9 A It's in the 191 pass-through filing.

10 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. Those are
11 all the comments from the Division. The Division's
12 witness, Mr. Orton, is now available for
13 cross-examination and questions from the hearing
14 officer.

15 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

16 Ms. Clark, do you have any questions?

17 MS. CLARK: I do not. Thank you.

18 OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

19 MR. SNARR: No questions.

20 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you, and I
21 don't have any, Mr. Orton. Mr. Snarr.

22 MR. SNARR: On behalf of the Office
23 of Consumer Services, we would like to have
24 Gavin Mangelson sworn as a witness.

25 GAVIN MANGELSON,

1 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was
2 examined and testified as follows:

3 BY MR. SNARR:

4 Q Mr. Mangelson, will you please state your
5 name, business address, and your work capacity?

6 A Gavin Mangelson. I work at 160 East 300
7 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. I work as a utility
8 analyst for the Utah Office of Consumer Services.

9 Q Did the Office provide comments to the
10 Commission on these four pending dockets on
11 September 22, 2017?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Were those comments authored by you?

14 A No.

15 Q Have you become familiar with that
16 submission and are you prepared to address any of
17 the issues that arise out of these dockets?

18 A Yes. I provided input regarding the
19 Office's comments, particularly the Docket
20 17-057-17, as I did author the comments from the
21 Office in Docket 16-057-11, which has been
22 referenced in this proceeding.

23 Q Now, with respect to Docket No. 17-057-15
24 dealing with the Conservation Enabling Tariff, could
25 you reiterate what the Office's position is?

1 A Yes. The Office recommends that the
2 Commission approve the Company's requested rate
3 changes on an interim basis.

4 Q Now, with respect to docket 17-057-16,
5 dealing with the tariff change for Low Income
6 Assistance/Energy Assistance Rates, the Office
7 identified some needed tariff edits or modifications
8 to correct some things; is that correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And you've heard the testimony here today
11 as presented by Dominion. Does that resolve the
12 concerns that were expressed by the Office in this
13 particular docket?

14 A Yes. Mr. Mendenhall cited the corrections
15 to the effective dates in Exhibit 1.3.

16 Q With respect to Docket No. 17-057-17, the
17 Office raised some questions in that docket somewhat
18 reminiscent of issues that had been previously
19 presented in an earlier docket before this
20 Commission; is that correct?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q And you've reviewed the reply comments
23 that have been recently filed by Dominion with
24 respect to Docket No. 17-057-17; is that right?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And have the issues that were raised by
2 the Office in its comments been adequately
3 addressed?

4 A Yes. That has been adequately addressed.

5 Q And could you reiterate now the position
6 of the Office with respect to Docket 17-057-17?

7 A Yes. And, if I may just delve into the
8 Commission's Supplemental Action Request,
9 specifically the second part about the rate not
10 recovering the full budget amount. We concur with
11 what Mr. Mendenhall explained.

12 First, that the DSM budget is an annual
13 budget running from January through December. The
14 rate is designed to collect over the test period
15 running from the beginning of the heating season of
16 this year to the beginning of the heating season of
17 next year. The other issue at play, is historically
18 we've talked about the balance being kept at or near
19 zero for the year, and rather than aiming to -- or I
20 should say, in Exhibit 1.3 that the Company filed,
21 it shows a graph of the account balance and because
22 the DSM amortization rate is collected as a
23 volumetric rate, the balance fluctuates up and down.
24 And rather than aiming to hit that zero balance over
25 a 12-month period, in working with the Division and

1 the Company, we resolved that it would be better to
2 result in a net-zero interest, or what we call
3 carrying charges, so when the account is running a
4 balance, customers are paying the carrying charge on
5 that balance. When the account is running a
6 negative balance or an over-collection, the Company
7 is paying the interest rate to customers.

8 So the rate that is proposed that we
9 support should result in a net-zero carrying charge
10 over that test period.

11 **Q Thank you. Now, with respect to Docket**
12 **17-057-18, could you provide the Office's position**
13 **with respect to that docket?**

14 **A** Yes. We have reviewed the Company's
15 application and recommend that the Commission
16 approve the Company's requested rate change on an
17 interim basis.

18 MR. SNARR: That would complete our
19 presentation.

20 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.
21 Ms. Clark, any questions?

22 MS. CLARK: No, thank you.

23 OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

24 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

25 OFFICER HAMMER: And I don't have

1 any. Thank you. Ms. Clark, let me ask you --
2 Dominion seeks an effective date of October 1st with
3 respect to all these applications?

4 MS. CLARK: That's correct.

5 OFFICER HAMMER: So I anticipate
6 there will be a request for a bench order?

7 MS. CLARK: The Company would
8 respectfully request a bench order on all four
9 dockets and would reiterate the recommendation that
10 three of those dockets be approved on an interim
11 basis, and the docket related to the Low Income
12 Energy Assistance Charge be approved on a final
13 basis.

14 OFFICER HAMMER: Okay. We'll be in
15 brief recess while the Commission considers the
16 request for a bench order. Is there anything before
17 we do that?

18 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the
19 Division.

20 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. We'll be
21 in recess for just a few minutes.

22 (A brief recess was taken.)

23 OFFICER HAMMER: With respect to the
24 applications filed in Docket Nos. 17-057-15,
25 17-057-17, and 17-057-18, based on the applications,

1 the filed written comments, and the testimony at
2 hearing, the Commission concludes it is just,
3 reasonable, and in the public interest to approve
4 them. The rates are approved effective October 1st,
5 2017, on an interim basis as modified by testimony
6 and exhibits at hearing, pending the results of the
7 Division's audit.

8 Based on the application filed in
9 Docket No. 17-057-16, the filed written comments,
10 and the testimony at hearing, the Commission
11 concludes it is just, reasonable, and in the public
12 interest to approve the application, effective
13 October 1, 2017.

14 The Commission has approved and
15 confirmed this bench ruling which will be
16 memorialized in a written order. Is there anything
17 else from the parties before we adjourn?

18 MS. CLARK: No, thank you.

19 MS. SCHMID: Nothing from the
20 Division.

21 MR. SNARR: Nothing from the Office.

22 OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Everyone
23 have a nice day. We're adjourned.

24 (The hearing concluded at 9:40 a.m.)

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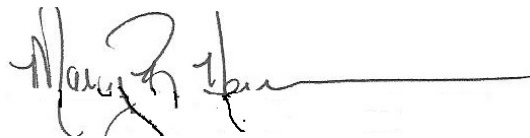
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH)
COUNTY OF SUMMIT)

I, Mary R. Honigman, a Registered Professional Reporter, hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof; that the witnesses were placed under oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter my notes were transcribed through computer-aided transcription; and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of such testimony adduced and oral proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.

I have subscribed my name on this 6th day of October, 2017.



Mary R. Honigman
Registered Professional Reporter #972887

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