

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE PASS-THROUGH)	
APPLICATION OF DOMINION ENERGY)	
UTAH FOR AN ADJUSTMENT IN RATES)	DOCKET NO. 17-057-20
AND CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS)	
SERVICE IN UTAH)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JEROME D. MIERZWA

FOR THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES

APRIL 23, 2018



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 300
Columbia, Maryland 21044

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JEROME D. MIERZWA1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

3 A. My name is Jerome D. Mierzwa. I am a Principal and Vice President with Exeter
4 Associates, Inc. (“Exeter”). My business address is 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway,
5 Suite 300, Columbia, Maryland 21044. Exeter specializes in providing public utility-
6 related consulting services.7 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND
8 EXPERIENCE.9 A. I graduated from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York in 1981 with a Bachelor of
10 Science Degree in Marketing. In 1985, I received a Master’s Degree in Business
11 Administration with a concentration in finance, also from Canisius College. In July
12 1986, I joined National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (“NFGD”) as a Management
13 Trainee in the Research and Statistical Services Department (“RSS”). I was promoted
14 to Supervisor RSS in January 1987. While employed with NFGD, I conducted various
15 financial and statistical analyses related to the company’s market research activity and
16 state regulatory affairs. In April 1987, as part of a corporate reorganization, I was
17 transferred to National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation’s (“NFG Supply’s”) Rate
18 Department, where my responsibilities included utility cost of service and rate design
19 analysis, expense and revenue requirement forecasting, and activities related to federal
20 regulation. I was also responsible for preparing NFG Supply’s Federal Energy
21 Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) Purchased Gas Adjustment (“PGA”) filings and
22 developing interstate pipeline and spot market supply gas price projections. These
23 forecasts were utilized for internal planning purposes as well as in NFGD’s annual state
24 purchased gas cost review proceedings in Pennsylvania.

25 In April 1990, I accepted a position as a Utility Analyst with Exeter. In
26 December 1992, I was promoted to Senior Regulatory Analyst. Effective April 1, 1996,
27 I became a Principal of Exeter. Since joining Exeter, I have specialized in evaluating
28 the gas purchasing practices and policies of natural gas utilities, utility class cost of
29 service and rate design analysis, sales and rate forecasting, performance-based
30 incentive regulation, revenue requirement analysis, the unbundling of utility services,
31 and evaluation of customer choice natural gas transportation programs.

32 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

33 A. Exeter was retained by the Office of Consumer Services (“OCS”) to evaluate the design
34 day criteria and forecast model relied upon by Dominion Energy Utah, formerly
35 Questar Gas Company (“DEU” or the “Company”), to determine the upstream
36 interstate pipeline capacity resources required to meet its sales customers’ design day
37 gas supply requirements. Exeter was also requested to evaluate the reasonableness of
38 DEU’s proposals to acquire interstate pipeline peak hour services to meet the peak hour
39 requirements of its sales and transportation customers.

40 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED ON UTILITY RATES IN
41 REGULATORY PROCEEDINGS?

42 A. Yes. I have provided testimony on more than 300 occasions in proceedings before the
43 FERC and state utility regulatory commissions in Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia,
44 Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey,
45 Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Virginia, as well as before this
46 Commission. I previously testified before this Commission in Docket No. 14-057-31,
47 in which DEU proposed to implement a transportation customer imbalance charge, and
48 in Docket No. 17-057-09, in which DEU proposed to charge transportation customers
49 for peak hour service.

50 Q. BEFORE CONTINUING, WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH
51 RESPECT TO EVALUATING THE GAS PROCUREMENT PRACTICES
52 OF NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES (“NGDCs”) LIKE
53 DEU?

54 A. Over the last 28 years, I have reviewed and assessed the gas procurement practices of
55 approximately 40 different NGDCs. For many of these NGDCs, I have performed gas
56 procurement reviews on an annual basis. In total, I estimate that I have performed
57 approximately 200 such reviews.

58 Q. DID THESE REVIEWS GENERALLY INCLUDE AN EVALUATION OF
59 THE NGDC’S DESIGN DAY CRITERIA AND FORECAST MODEL?

60 A. Yes, these reviews generally involved an evaluation of the NGDC’s design day criteria
61 and forecast model.

62 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

63 A. My findings and recommendations are as follows:

- 64 • The weather criteria of 70 heating degree days (“HDDs”), a 47 mph
65 maximum windspeed, and a 26 mph average windspeed used by the
66 Company to project the design day requirements of its sales customers are
67 unreasonable, overly conservative, and unlikely to ever occur;
- 68 • Weather criteria of 70 HDDs, a 17 mph maximum windspeed, and a 9 mph
69 average windspeed are more reasonable and should be used by the Company
70 to determine the upstream interstate pipeline capacity resources needed to
71 meet its sales customers design day requirements;
- 72 • The Company’s design day forecasting model underestimates the
73 requirements of sales customers and should be revised to include
74 independent variables reflecting the number of sales customers served and
75 energy efficiency and conservation.
- 76 • The model should also be developed using more recent winter period daily
77 usage data rather than the annual daily usage data used by the Company
78 which extends back to 2004. Daily usage data from as far back as 2004 is
79 not reflective of the current usage characteristics of the Company’s sales

80 customers. I recommend that daily data from the winter of 2014 to present
81 be used to develop the Company’s forecast model;

82 • Based on my recommended design day weather criteria and revised design
83 day forecasting model, the design day requirements of sales customers are
84 126,206 Dth less than those projected by the Company, and DEU should
85 adjust the upstream interstate pipeline capacity resources acquired to meet
86 the design day requirements of its sales customers accordingly; and

87 • While DEU appears to have justified its proposal to acquire 100,000
88 Dth/day of Kern River Gas Transmission Company (“Kern River”) firm
89 peak hour service, the Company has not justified its proposal to acquire an
90 additional 250,000 Dth/day of firm peak hour service from Dominion
91 Energy Questar Pipeline (“DEQP”).

92 Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE HOW YOUR TESTIMONY IS
93 ORGANIZED.

94 A. My testimony is presented in four sections, including this introductory section. The
95 second section of my testimony evaluates the reasonableness of the weather criteria
96 utilized by the Company to forecast the design day requirements of its sales customers.
97 The next section addresses DEU’s design day forecasting model and the implications
98 of my recommendations concerning the Company’s design day weather criteria and
99 forecasting model. The final section of my testimony discusses the reasonableness of
100 the Company’s peak hour service contracts.

101 **II. DESIGN DAY WEATHER CRITERIA**

102 Q. BEFORE CONTINUING, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT THE TERM
103 “DESIGN DAY” REFERS TO FOR AN NGDC LIKE DEU.

104 A. A design day is an extremely cold day that an NGDC selects and utilizes for capacity
105 resource planning purposes. An NGDC would typically reserve upstream interstate
106 pipeline capacity resources sufficient to meet the design day gas supply requirements
107 of its sales customers. An NGDC may also reserve capacity to meet the design day
108 balancing requirements of its transportation customers. NGDCs typically develop

109 forecasting models to determine the requirements of sales customers under design day
110 weather conditions. DEU claims that it is also necessary to secure additional upstream
111 interstate pipeline capacity resources to meet the design day peak hour demands of its
112 sales and transportation customers.

113 Q. WHAT ARE THE WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT DEU USES TO
114 DETERMINE THE DESIGN DAY REQUIREMENTS OF ITS SALES
115 CUSTOMERS?

116 A. As explained by DEU witness Mr. David C. Landward in DEU Exhibit 1.0, the design
117 day weather criteria that DEU uses for upstream interstate pipeline capacity planning
118 purposes is a day with an average temperature of -5°F, or 70 HDDs, a maximum
119 windspeed of 47 mph, and an average windspeed of 26 mph. A day with 70 HDDs last
120 occurred in 1963, and days with 70 HDDs or more have been recorded on seven days
121 since 1929.¹

122 Q. ARE THE DESIGN DAY WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT DEU USES
123 FOR UPSTREAM PIPELINE CAPACITY PLANNING PURPOSES
124 REASONABLE?

125 A. No. In the response to OCS 1.02, DEU provided HDDs, maximum windspeed, and
126 average windspeed data for each winter day (November through March) for the period
127 January 2004 through January 2018—a total of 2,149 observations. To evaluate this
128 data, I calculated the correlation coefficients for HDDs and maximum daily windspeed
129 and also for HDDs and average daily windspeed. In both cases, the correlation
130 coefficient was negative, which indicates that higher levels of HDDs are associated
131 with lower daily maximum windspeeds and lower average daily windspeeds.

¹ DEU's HDDs database extends back to 1929.

132 I conducted an additional analysis for the period January 2004 through January
133 2018 in which I ranked the 100 days with the highest HDDs and examined the
134 maximum and average daily windspeeds associated with those HDDs. For this 100-
135 day sample, the highest value for the maximum windspeed was 25 mph and the highest
136 value for average windspeed was 9.5 mph. This suggests that the coldest days, as
137 measured by HDDs, are not the days that are anticipated to have the highest maximum
138 daily windspeeds or highest average daily windspeeds.

139 I also considered another analytical approach to looking at HDDs and
140 windspeeds. In Massachusetts, NGDC's use the variable effective degree days (EDDs)
141 in their design day forecast models. This variable combines the effect of HDDs and
142 average windspeed on customer gas supply requirements. The formula used for EDDs
143 is as follows:

$$144 \quad \text{EDD} = \text{HDD} \times (1 + \text{WIND MPH}/100)$$

145 The HDDs and average windspeeds observed on the ten highest HDD days
146 since 1941 are presented in Table 1.² Also included in Table 1 are the EDDs on these
147 ten coldest days since 1941, maximum and average windspeeds in DEU's service
148 territory were significantly less than the windspeed criteria used in DEU's design day
149 forecast.

² Since 1929, days with at least 65 HDDs have been recorded in DEU's service territory on 24 occasions. Maximum and average windspeed data is only readily available since 1941. Of the 24 days since 1929 with at least 65 HDDs, ten of those days have occurred since 1941.

Table 1. HDDs and Maximum and Average Windspeeds on Ten Coldest Days Since 1941				
Date	HDDs	Windspeed		EDDs
		Maximum	Average	
January 25, 1949	72	8	4	75
January 12, 1963	72	10	7	77
December 22, 1990	69	15	7	74
January 13, 1963	68.5	12	8	74
January 19, 1963	68	17	9	74
December 10, 1972	67.5	8	4	70
January 23, 1962	67	12	5	70
December 15, 1972	67	10	4	70
December 23, 1990	66	10	7	71
January 22, 1962	65.5	9	5	69

150 Q. HAVE YOU EVALUATED THE REASONABLENESS OF DEU'S
151 DESIGN DAY CRITERIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EFFECTIVE
152 DEGREE DAYS?

153 A. Yes. DEU's 70 HDD and 26 mph average windspeed design day criteria are equal to
154 88 EDDs using the EDD formula. The Company's design day database extends back
155 to 1974, and since that time, the day with the highest EDDs observed in the Company's
156 service territory was 63 EDDs. There have been no days since 1974 on which the
157 combined impact of temperature and windspeed have come anywhere close to the
158 combined impact of the 88 EDDs upon which the Company forecasts the design day
159 requirements of its sales customers. This also means that the highest observed EDDs
160 is 27 percent less than the EDDs used in the Company's design day calculations, and
161 indicates that the Company's use of 70 HDDs and an average windspeed of 26 mph;
162 i.e., 88 EDDs, to project design day requirements is overly conservative.

163 Q. BASED ON YOUR ANALYSES, WHAT DO YOU CONCLUDE
164 CONCERNING DEU'S DESIGN DAY WEATHER CRITERIA?

165 A. Based on my analyses, I conclude that the Company's design day weather criteria,
166 which include both a maximum HDD level plus the highest maximum windspeed and
167 highest average daily windspeed, entails reliance on an extreme set of circumstances
168 that does not have a reasonable likelihood of occurrence.

169 Q. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF DEU USING DESIGN DAY
170 WEATHER CRITERIA THAT ARE OVERLY CONSERVATIVE?

171 A. If DEU were to use a design day with a probability of occurrence that was too extreme
172 (i.e., unlikely to ever occur), it would mean that its design day forecast would be
173 unreasonably high and, as a result, its need for capacity resources, including peak hour
174 services, would be overstated. This is because the Company determines its need for
175 peak hour service based on projected design day demands.

176 Q. WHAT DESIGN DAY WEATHER CRITERIA DO YOU RECOMMEND
177 DEU USE FOR UPSTREAM INTERSTATE PIPELINE CAPACITY
178 PLANNING PURPOSES?

179 A. Based on the windspeeds observed on the coldest days recorded in DEU's service
180 territory since 1941, as reflected above in Table 1, I recommend that DEU utilize a day
181 with 70 HDDs, a maximum windspeed of 17 mph, and an average windspeed of 9 mph
182 to estimate the design day requirements of its sales customers. These windspeed
183 criteria reflect the highest observed maximum and average windspeeds on the ten
184 coldest days since 1941.

185

III. DESIGN DAY FORECAST MODEL

186 Q.

PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE FORECASTING MODEL

187

DEVELOPED BY DEU TO PROJECT THE DESIGN DAY

188

REQUIREMENTS OF ITS SALES CUSTOMERS.

189 A.

DEU forecasts the design day demands of its sales customers by estimating the statistical relationship between daily demand and explanatory variables which the Company contends are known to affect those demands. To accomplish this, multivariable regression analysis of historical daily firm sales data since 2004 was conducted by the Company using the following independent variables:

194

- HDDs;

195

- Maximum windspeed;

196

- Average windspeed;

197

- Day of the week;

198

- Winter holiday indication; and

199

- Prior day demand.

200 Q.

WHAT WERE THE COMPANY'S ESTIMATED DESIGN DAY

201

DEMANDS OF SALES CUSTOMERS FOR THE WINTER OF 2016/2017,

202

USING THEIR DESIGN DAY WEATHER CRITERIA AND DESIGN DAY

203

FORECASTING MODEL?

204 A.

As identified on page 5, line 98 of DEU Exhibit 1.0, the estimated design day demands of sales customers for the winter of 2016/2017 were 1,316,588 dekatherms (Dth).

206 Q.

WERE YOU ABLE TO VERIFY THE 2016/2017 WINTER SEASON

207

DESIGN DAY PROJECTION USING THE COMPANY'S FORECASTING

208

MODEL?

209 A.

No, I was not. In response to discovery request OCS 3.1, Mr. Landward was also not able to verify the Company's projection because it was prepared by an individual no

210

211 longer employed by the Company. In response to OCS 3.1, Mr. Landward presented a
212 sales customer design day forecast of 1,342,345 Dth for the 2017/2018 winter season
213 using the Company’s design day forecasting model and design day weather criteria.

214 Q. HAVE YOU EVALUATED WHETHER THE COMPANY’S DESIGN DAY
215 FORECASTING MODEL PRODUCES A REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF
216 SALES CUSTOMERS’ REQUIREMENTS USING ACTUAL WEATHER
217 CONDITIONS?

218 A. Yes, I did, and my evaluation indicated that it would not. To assess the forecasting
219 capabilities of the Company’s design day model, I compared the estimate produced by
220 the Company’s design day model utilizing actual weather for the core winter months
221 (December – February) for the 2014/2015 through 2017/2018 winter seasons.³ This
222 evaluation indicated that, for each day during this period, and for the 100 coldest days
223 during this period, the Company’s design day model under-forecasted actual demands
224 nearly 80 percent of the time.

225 Q. WHAT RESULTS WOULD BE DEEMED TO BE DESIRABLE AND
226 WHAT RESULTS WOULD BE DEEMED TO BE PROBLEMATIC FROM
227 YOUR COMPARISON?

228 A. The desirable results from this comparison would be that the model’s “projections” are
229 close to the actuals, that is, the errors are not so large as to make the projections without
230 practical value. Second, the projections should not exhibit any appreciable bias, that
231 is, the amount of the over-projection should be approximately equal to the amount of
232 the under-projection. Just as importantly, the frequency of over-projections and under-
233 projections should be approximately equal. Problematic results would include large
234 errors or projections that are biased toward either over- or under-projection. Thus, the

³ Data for February 2018 were not available and, therefore, excluded from the analysis.

235 Company's results are problematic since its design day model showed a bias toward
236 under-projections.

237 Q. WHY IS IT LIKELY THAT THE COMPANY'S MODEL TENDED TO
238 FREQUENTLY UNDERESTIMATE ACTUAL DEMANDS?

239 A. The Company's regression analysis relies on data from 1974 to present to forecast sales
240 customer requirements. Since 1974, the number of customers served by DEU has
241 increased from 772,793 to 1,035,155, or nearly 34 percent. However, the number of
242 sales customers served by the Company is not included as an independent variable in
243 the Company's design day model.

244 Q. DO YOU HAVE OTHER CONCERNS WITH THE COMPANY'S DESIGN
245 DAY FORECAST MODEL?

246 A. Yes. The Company's design day forecast model does not account for changes in
247 customer usage due to energy conservation efforts and energy efficiency. Such changes
248 could be accounted for by including a trend-independent variable.

249 Q. HAVE YOU EVALUATED THE IMPACT OF INCLUDING
250 INDEPENDENT VARIABLES TO ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER OF
251 SALES CUSTOMERS SERVED AND ACCOUNT FOR CONSERVATION
252 AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

253 A. Yes. I have revised the Company's regression analysis to include independent
254 variables to account for the number of sales customers and to represent conservation
255 and energy efficiency. In revising the Company's regression analysis, I have limited
256 the use of daily data to the core winter months of 2014/2015 through 2017/2018. I
257 limited the revised analysis to this period to reflect the most recent usage characteristics
258 of the Company's sales customers. The coefficients of this model are presented in
259 Table 2.

Table 2.			
OCS Revised Regression Model			
	Coefficient	Estimate	T-Statistic
1	Intercept	(987,278.90)	(2.15)
2	HDDs	(2,081.66)	(0.39)
3	HDD^2	572.74	2.18
4	HDD^3	(9.85)	(1.70)
5	HDD^4	0.06	1.33
6	Prior Day Demand	0.24	12.28
7	Friday	(19,043.70)	(4.57)
8	Weekend	(13,724.30)	(4.25)
9	Maximum Wind Gust (mph)	529.65	1.06
10	Mean Windspeed (mph)	1,470.02	0.89
11	HDD*Mean Windspeed	151.06	2.66
12	Holiday	(32,197.75)	(3.97)
13	Number of Customers	1.16	2.45
14	Trend	(15,456.09)	(1.45)
15	Adjusted R-squared Value: .9660		

260 Q. HAVE YOU EVALUATED WHETHER THE REVISED REGRESSION
 261 MODEL PRODUCES A REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF ACTUAL SALES
 262 CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS USING ACTUAL WEATHER DATA?

263 A. Yes. Similar to my evaluation of the Company's design day forecast model, I
 264 compared the estimate produced by the revised design day model to actual
 265 requirements utilizing actual weather. This analysis indicated an approximate 50/50
 266 split on the number of days the model underestimated and overestimated demands.

267 Q. WHAT ARE THE PROJECTED DESIGN DAY DEMANDS OF SALES
 268 CUSTOMERS USING THE REVISED REGRESSION MODEL AND THE
 269 COMPANY'S DESIGN DAY WEATHER CRITERIA?

270 A. Using the revised regression model and Company’s design day weather criteria would
271 increase the design day forecast for the winter of 2017/2018 from 1,342,345 Dth to
272 1,432,761 Dth—an increase of 90,416 Dth.

273 Q. HOW WOULD THE DESIGN DAY FORECAST CHANGE IF YOUR
274 RECOMMENDED WEATHER CRITERIA WERE REFLECTED IN THE
275 REVISED DESIGN DAY FORECAST MODEL?

276 A. Utilizing the 70 HDD, 17 mph maximum wind, and 9 mph average windspeed criteria
277 in the revised regression model would reduce the projected design day requirements of
278 sales customers to 1,216,139 Dth, or by 216,622 Dth, which is 126,206 Dth less than
279 the Company’s forecast for the 2017/2018 winter season.

280 Q. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR FINDINGS CONCERNING
281 DEU’S DESIGN DAY WEATHER CRITERIA AND FORECAST MODEL?

282 A. The implications of my findings are that for the winter of 2017/2018, DEU would have
283 required 126,206 Dth less in daily upstream interstate pipeline capacity resources to
284 reliably meet its sales customers’ requirements. DEU would similarly require less in
285 daily capacity resources to reliably meet its sales customers’ requirements in the future.
286 Based on the current maximum FERC-approved rate for DEQP firm transportation
287 capacity (Rate Schedule T-1) of \$5.22804 Dth/day per month, a reduction of 126,206
288 Dth/day in DEU’s upstream capacity would reduce annual purchased gas costs by \$8.0
289 million ($\$5.28804 \times 12 \text{ months} \times 126,206 \text{ Dth/day}$).

290 Q. ARE YOU RECOMMENDING THAT THE REVISED DESIGN DAY
291 FORECASTING MODEL AND YOUR RECOMMENDED DESIGN DAY
292 WEATHER CRITERIA BE USED TO DETERMINE DEU’S PEAK
293 DESIGN DAY IN THE FUTURE?

294 A. Yes. However, I am not suggesting that the revised design day model presented in my
295 testimony could not be further improved upon. In evaluating further changes to its
296 design day model, DEU should compare the performance of its model under recent
297 actual weather conditions to ensure the model's estimates are reasonable.

298

IV. PEAK HOUR SERVICES

299 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF HISTORY OF DEU'S CONTRACTING FOR
300 PEAK HOUR SERVICES.

301 A. To address a claimed need for services to accommodate the peak hour demands of its
302 sales and transportation customers, DEU entered into a firm peak hour service contract
303 for 100,000 Dth with Kern River for the 2017/2018 winter season. In Docket No. 17-
304 057-09, DEU filed an application to collect a portion of the costs associated with the
305 Kern River contract from transportation customers. In Docket No. 17-057-09, the
306 Company indicated that in a February 28, 2017 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP")
307 workshop, it revealed that it intended to contract with DEQP for additional peak hour
308 service. DEU subsequently contracted with DEQP for 250,000 Dth of peak hour
309 service effective November 15, 2017. In Docket No. 17-057-09, the Commission
310 initially denied DEU's application to assess transportation customers a portion of the
311 costs associated with the Kern River peak hour contract, and deferred the determination
312 of the prudence of the Kern River peak hour service contract to the instant proceeding,
313 where similar prudence issues are being addressed concerning the DEQP peak hour
314 service contracts.

315 Q. HAS DEU SHOWN THAT ANY LEVEL OF PEAK HOUR SERVICE IS
316 PRUDENT AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

317 A. Yes, to a certain extent. In Docket No. 17-057-09, I indicated that based on the rebuttal
318 testimony of DEU witness Michael L. Platt, some level of peak hour service is
319 warranted. In Docket No. 17-057-09, Mr. Platt presented an analysis (DEU Exhibit
320 3.4R) of transportation customers and regulator stations feeding cities that would fall
321 below operational pressures and risk losing service on a peak day if peak hour service
322 was not available. Mr. Platt has presented a similar analysis in this proceeding (DEU
323 Exhibit 2.3) and I remain convinced that some level of peak hour service is in the public
324 interest.

325 Q. HAS DEU JUSTIFIED THE NEED FOR A TOTAL OF 350,000 DTH IN
326 PEAK HOUR SERVICE FROM KERN RIVER AND DEQP?

327 A. No. Also consistent with my position in Docket No. 17-057-09, I believe DEU has not
328 justified the need for an additional 250,000 Dth of peak hour service from DEQP for
329 several reasons.

330 First, as previously explained, the design day demands of DEU's sales
331 customers are overstated by 126,206 Dth. The Company's response to OCS 1.07
332 indicates that for every additional 1,000 Dth of design day demand, peak hour demands
333 increase by an estimated 350 Dth. To determine the precise impact of a reduction in
334 design day demands on the Company's firm peak hour service needs requires the use
335 of the Company's system models. Based on the 126,206 Dth reduction to the
336 Company's design day forecast I have recommended, I estimate that the Company's
337 need for firm peak hour service would be reduced by 44,000 Dth (126,206 Dth/1,000
338 x 350 Dth) from what the Company has claimed.

339 Second, as indicated in the response to OCS 4.04 in Docket No. 17-057-09, the
340 Company has the ability to use approximately 180,000 Dth of line pack to partially

341 address its peak hour service needs.⁴ In the response to OCS 4.03 in Docket No. 17-
342 057-09, the Company claimed that without the ability to use line pack, its peak hour
343 service requirement would be closer to 450,000 Dth.⁵ With the use of line pack
344 (180,000 Dth/day), Kern River peak hour service (100,000 Dth/day), and the
345 acquisition of DEQP peak hour service (250,000 Dth/day), the Company will have
346 resources of 530,000 Dth/day to meet peak hour demands. This exceeds the claimed
347 requirement of 450,000 Dth/day, which I have already demonstrated is overstated by
348 at least 44,000 Dth/day. It is not clear that the use of line pack has been adequately
349 considered by the Company in determining its need for peak hour services.

350 Q. HAS DEU DEMONSTRATED THAT THE PEAK HOUR CONTRACTS
351 WITH DEQP ARE NEEDED, PRUDENT AND IN THE PUBLIC
352 INTEREST?

353 A. For these reasons stated above, I believe that DEU has failed to demonstrate the
354 prudence of securing the additional service contracts providing peak hour services from
355 DEQP.

356 Q. TO WHAT EXTENT HAS DEU STUDIED VARIOUS AVAILABLE
357 ALTERNATIVES TO ADDRESS POSSIBLE PEAK HOUR SERVICE
358 REQUIREMENTS?

359 A. DEU's witness William F. Schwarzenbach III addresses the alternatives to meet peak-
360 hour demand shortfalls in his pre-filed direct testimony. At lines 226 through 232 of
361 his testimony he explains the various possible solutions that the Company considered.
362 He has also supplied Confidential DEU Exhibit 3.7, a slide presentation taken from the
363 IRP workshop conducted on February 28, 2017, and Confidential DEU Exhibit 3.8 in
364 support of his testimony.

⁴ OCS 4.04 attached to testimony as OCS Exhibit 1.1.

⁵ OCS 4.03 attached to testimony as OCS Exhibit 1.2.

365 Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH DEU’S CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE
366 MOST COST EFFECTIVE OPTION FOR ADDRESSING POSSIBLE
367 PEAK HOUR SERVICE REQUIREMENTS?

368 A. Based on the studies presented, Mr. Schwarzenbach states “The Firm Peaking Services
369 are the most reliable and cost effective solutions based on this evaluation.” I take no
370 issue with this conclusion.

371 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

372 A. Yes, it does.