



GARY HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

Department of Commerce

Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI
Executive Director

CHRIS PARKER
Director, Division of Public Utilities

Comments

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant

Eric Orton, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: August 29, 2019

Re: **Dominion Energy's Gas Line Coverage Letter: Docket No. 18-057-07**

Recommendation (Approve Tariff Sheets)

Dominion Energy Utah (Gas Utility) submitted a stipulation and a revised Utah Tariff Section 8.08 on August 14, 2019 claiming that parties in this docket "have engaged in settlement discussions and reached agreement that Section 8.08 ...be reinstated with certain modifications"

Issue

On June 1, 2017, the Gas Utility filed a request seeking Commission approval to include invoicing for third parties on its utility bill. On November 20, 2017, the Commission issued its final order in that docket approving third-party billing as stipulated. Around the first of May 2018, the Gas Utility's customers began receiving solicitation letters seeking customer authorization to charge a monthly fee to provide insurance for the customer's gas line. On October 4, 2018, the Commission ordered that "Section 8.08 is suspended prospectively in that new customers who are not receiving third-party billing under Section 8.08 on the date of this

order may not begin to receive third-party billing under Section 8.08 unless or until the PSC revokes or modifies this suspension" and that "DEU shall file an updated Section 8.08 to reflect that suspension." The Gas Utility filed an updated Section 8.08 on October 17, 2018, which the Commission approved on November 5, 2018.

Discussion

Following the suspension of the tariff, parties began discussions to determine if they could resolve their differences with respect to the new Commission Rule as found in 18-R460-01. These discussions resulted in a stipulation filed by the Company on August 14, 2019. The Utah Division of Public Utilities (Division), the Office of Consumer Services (Office) and the Gas Utility have reached a settlement of the issues and agreed to the stipulation, which the Gas Utility filed as DEU Exhibit 1 along with Exhibit A, the revised version of DEU's Utah tariff section 8.08 in legislative format.

The Division supports the stipulation and the attached tariff. They represent a fair and reasonable resolution of the issues in this case. The revised Tariff Section 8.08 is in accordance with Commission rules, just and reasonable in result, and in the public interest.

Conclusion

The stipulation filed by the Gas Utility reasonably settles the issues in this case and the proposed language in the revised Utah Tariff Section 8.08 is sufficient to satisfy the Commission's rule. The Division recommends that the Commission approve the proposed tariff language and the accompanying stipulation.

Cc: Kelly Mendenhall, Dominion Energy Utah
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services