



State of Utah

Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

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## Action Request Response

**To:** Public Service Commission of Utah

**From:** Utah Division of Public Utilities

Artie Powell, Director

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Shauna Benvegnu-Springer, Utility Technical Consultant

**Date:** December 30, 2020

**Re:** **Docket Nos. 20-057-01 and 19-057-26**, Dominion Energy Utah's Efficiency Reports, 2020 and Dominion Energy Utah's Application for Approval of the 2020 Year Budget for Energy Efficiency Programs and Market Transformation Initiative.

### Recommendation (Acknowledge with Recommendation)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge Dominion Energy Utah's (Company) notice of expenditures to date of its forecasted 2020 Energy Efficiency Program and acknowledge the notice as meeting the requirement established by the Commission in Docket No. 05-057-T01.<sup>1</sup> The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the higher level of spending at the forecasted level for the ThermWise Builder Program of \$8,076,752 and ThermWise Weatherization Program of \$8,586,486, and, reduce the spending to the ThermWise Appliance Program to \$3,656,946, the ThermWise Home Energy Plan to \$343,965, and the Market Transformation to \$1,081,712 which is the forecasted level. The Division recommends the Commission require the Company to

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Order, In the Matter of the Application for Approval of the Conservation Enabling Tariff Adjustment Option and Accounting Orders, Docket No. 05-057-T01, January 16, 2007, p. 8, 4.

submit its Energy Efficiency Reports, both quarterly actual and the projected budget exceedance reports, within 45 days following the period end date.

## **Issue**

On December 2, 2020, the Company reported to the Commission that the ThermWise Builder Program reached 96.2% of the 2020 program budget in August 2020. According to the Company's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Energy Efficiency Report, The ThermWise Builder Program has exceeded its 2020 budget by 4.5% or \$264,564. On December 2, 2020, the Commission issued an Action Request requesting the Division review the filing for compliance and make recommendations by December 31, 2020.

## **Discussion**

According to the Commission's order in Docket No. 05-057-T01, "Questar shall report to the Commission when the amount spent for any program reaches ninety percent of the budgeted amount, along with an estimate of the projected spending needed for the remainder of the year. To the extent the projected spending exceeds the original budgeted amount Questar must seek Commission approval for the higher projected levels of spending."<sup>2</sup>

The Energy Efficiency Program is projected annually based on estimated participation in the programs. The Company reported actual spending of 96.2% of the ThermWise Builder Program budget by August 31, 2020. The Company forecast the ThermWise Builder Program will spend 139% or \$2,246,689 of the program budget by December 31, 2020. The Company forecasts the ThermWise Weatherization Program will also exceed its program budget by 8% or \$604,407 for the 2020 program year. The overspending of the two programs would result in a budget deficit of \$2,851,096 by December 31, 2020. The ThermWise Appliance Program, ThermWise Home Energy Plan, and the Market Transformation Program are estimated to underspend by 41%, 40%, and 18%, respectively, creating an aggregate savings of \$2,985,118 to cover the deficit of \$2,851,096 by December 31, 2020. Overall, the Company is forecasting to underspend the Energy Efficiency/Demand Side Management budget by 1.2% or \$308,821 by

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

December 31, 2020.

The Company requests, if needed, the Commission approve the change in spending. The Company met its requirement to report and forecast when a program exceeds 90% of its budget. The Company will continue to closely monitor customer participation and efficiently manage spending for all Energy Efficiency programs. The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the higher level of spending at the forecasted level for the ThermWise Builder Program of \$8,076,752 and ThermWise Weatherization Program of \$8,586,486 and, reduce the spending to the ThermWise Appliance Program to \$3,656,946, the ThermWise Home Energy Plan to \$343,965, and the Market Transformation to \$1,081,712 which is the forecasted level. This will allow the overall budget to remain at \$26,426,350.

The Division is concerned with the timeliness of the reporting. The Program Budget Report was received on December 2, 2020 for the period ending August 31, 2020, which is a 93 day period. General practice assumes 30 to 45 days for reporting. The Division recommends the Commission require the Company to submit its Energy Efficiency Reports, both the quarterly actual and the projected budget exceedance reports, within 45 days after the period end date.

## **Conclusion**

The Company has met its burden of providing reports, reasons and solutions for the status of the program to date and has met the requirements of compliance. The Division recommends the Commission:

- 1) acknowledge the higher level of spending at the forecasted level for the ThermWise Builder Program of \$8,076,752 and ThermWise Weatherization Program of \$8,586,486, and reduce the spending to the ThermWise Appliance Program to \$3,656,946, the ThermWise Home Energy Plan to \$343,965, and the Market Transformation to \$1,081,712 which is the forecasted level;
- 2) require the Company to submit its Energy Efficiency Reports, both the quarterly actual and projected budget exceedance reports, within 45 days after the period end date.

cc: Michael Orton, Dominion Energy Utah  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services  
Service List