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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

Chris Parker, Director
Brenda Salter, Assistant Director
Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Eric Orton, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: August 7, 2023

Re: **Docket No(s). 20-057-21 and 21-057-26**, Dominion Energy Utah Infrastructure Tracker

Recommendation (Approve)

The Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) recommends the Public Service Commission of Utah (“Commission”) approve the rates for Dominion Energy Utah’s (“Dominion”) requested changes to the Infrastructure Tracker Program (Infrastructure Tracker) and make those rates final.

Issue

On December 21, 2020, the PSC held a hearing for docket 20-057-21 and on November 29, 2021, it held a hearing for docket 21-057-26. At each of these hearings, the Division recommended the rates Dominion requested be approved on an interim basis, “subject to audit and review.” In its respective orders, the Commission determined that the proposed rates were just and reasonable and in the public interest and granted the Division’s request that the proposed rates be effective, “pending the results of DPU’s forthcoming audit,”

The time has arrived for the Division to report to the Commission the results of its “audit and review” in both above-mentioned dockets.

Division of Public Utilities

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Background

On November 25, 2020, Dominion filed the application identified above in Docket No. 20-057-21. The Division filed its comments on December 7, 2020, with a hearing held on December 21, 2020. The Commission issued its order on December 24, 2020, in which the above-referenced interim rates were approved and ordered “pending the results of DPU’s forthcoming audit.” Similarly, on November 1, 2021, Dominion filed the application identified above in Docket No. 21-057-26. The Division filed its comments on November 17, 2021, and a hearing was held on November 29, 2021. The Commission issued its order on November 30, 2021, in which interim rates were again approved and ordered.

On July 11, 2023, the Commission sent the Division an Action Request directing the Division to “Please provide DPU’s plans and anticipated schedule to complete its reviews and make recommendations for setting final rates in each of the Infrastructure Tracker dockets listed above” with a due date of August 10, 2023. This is the Division’s response to that Action Request.

Discussion

Following the Commission orders, the Division began its review process which entailed the Infrastructure Tracker updates, reports from Dominion, and responses to Division questions. In addition to the Division’s review of these transactions, Division staff completed a review of the Transportation Imbalance Charge and transactions in the 191 account. Following the Division’s memo filed on June 29, 2023, regarding Dominion’s Transportation Imbalance Charge, the Division can now make its recommendation regarding final rates for the Tracker filings.

The Division reviewed the calculations and other relevant information in both Infrastructure Tracker dockets listed above and reports that there are no potential adjustments it wishes to propose.

The Division reviewed the rates, calculations, and information provided by Dominion in both dockets and has completed its review and audit of the Infrastructure Tracker rates. The Division’s review showed that the expenses appear to be prudent and in the public interest.

Conclusion

The Division concludes the Infrastructure Tracker rates proposed and presented by Dominion in Docket Nos. 20-057-21 and 21-057-26 are just and reasonable. During the review of these dockets, the Division found no evidence warranting an adjustment to the amounts previously approved on an interim basis. The Division therefore recommends the Commission order the rates in the above-listed Dockets as final.

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