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Action Request Response

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Eric Orton, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: February 14, 2022

Re: **Docket No. 21-057-24**, Dominion Energy Utah's Snow Shelter Inspection and Placement Progress Report: Request of The Division of Public Utilities for Enforcement Action Under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act Against Dominion Energy Utah.

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge Dominion Energy Utah's (Dominion) report and take no further action at this time. While Dominion's report is only one step in fulfilling its commitments agreed to in the Settlement Stipulation, Dominion is making progress to fulfilling all of its obligations, which the Division will continue to monitor.

Issue

Dominion filed its first Snow Shelter progress report as agreed to in the Settlement Stipulation. In approving the Settlement Stipulation, the Commission found that "updating DEU's Operator Qualification Program is reasonable and, together with the planned inspections and meter

protection measures, will result in better protection against risk to life and property, consistent with the Act. We also find that the inspection and reporting schedules outlined in the Settlement are reasonable.” This filing is Dominion’s report of its initial Snow Shelter inspection.

Background

On October 1, 2021, the Division and Dominion filed a Motion to Approve Joint Stipulation and Request for Scheduling Conference. The Settlement Stipulation resolved a Division-filed Request for Enforcement Action as a result of an incident that occurred on February 16, 2019. On October 13, 2021, the Commission issued its Scheduling Order and Notice of Virtual Hearing. On December 14, 2021, the Commission held a virtual hearing and both filing parties provided testimony supporting the Settlement Stipulation. On January 20, 2022, the Commission issued its Order Approving the Settlement Stipulation (Order).

On January 27, 2022, Dominion filed its first report (part of which was confidential), detailing its progress toward inspecting meters that may need Snow Shelters. It also reiterated its commitment to file this type of report on a quarterly basis going forward.

On January 28, 2022, the Commission issued its Action Request directing the Division to review for compliance and make a recommendation on or before February 25, 2022. This memo provides the Division’s Action Request Response and recommendation.

Discussion

The Settlement Stipulation and Order contains several going-forward commitments made by Dominion designed to improve safety and prevent an incident similar to what occurred on February 16, 2019, from happening in the future. These commitments include:

- (1) updating its Standard Practices for placement of meters and snow shelters;
- (2) applying the new and updated Standard Practices to future meter installations;

- (3) submitting changes to its tariff for Commission approval, within sixty days of the Order; and
- (4) updating its Operator Qualification Program relating to Snow Shelters and their need when determining the placement of its meters.

Dominion is required to provide regular reports to the Division and Commission “related to meter snow shelters, including quarterly reports detailing its progress inspecting the remaining structures and snow shelter placements.” It also committed to inform regulators once all inspections are completed. Dominion will include an additional step in its regular five-year meter inspection cycle directed at determining whether snow protection is necessary. Finally, Dominion agreed to “contribute \$100,000 at shareholders’ expense to help cover the costs for the installation of new snow shelters.” As of the date of this memo, Dominion has not provided its updated Operator Qualification Program, updated tariff sheets, or verification that it has contributed the money to assist in covering some of the costs of installing Snow Shelters. The Division expects that documentation to be submitted soon.

In this filing, Dominion provides the results of its initial inspection of meters in Park City, Ogden Valley, Brian Head, and Cedar Highlands (areas more likely to experience high snowfall) as of January 10, 2022. The report shows the following:

- Dominion employees inspected 6,725 meters in the above-mentioned areas to determine if a Snow Shelter is needed over those meters.
- There are currently 1,903 Snow Shelters protecting the existing meters.
- There are an additional 2,196 meters that need Snow Shelters installed.
- Of the 2,196 new Snow Shelters that need to be installed, Dominion has already installed 738 Shelters with 1,458 remaining to be installed.
- Of the 1,458 Snow Shelters that need to be installed, Dominion plans to install 1,422.
- There are six Snow Shelters that Dominion expects its customers to self-install.

- 30 customers object to having a Snow Shelter placed over their meter. The report includes an overview of Dominion's plans to address the objections of these customers. The Division will comment on this in future filings should the need arise based on Dominion's interactions with these customers.

Conclusion

The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge Dominion's report. This filing is one part of the Settlement Stipulation agreement and Commissions Order. The Division notes that there are additional reports, tariff sheets, and completion notifications that are required to comply with the Order. The Division will continue to monitor Dominion's compliance with its obligations under the Settlement Stipulation and Commission Order.

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