



SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Public Utilities

MARGARET W. BUSSE
Executive Director

CHRIS PARKER
Division Director

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: November 2, 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.

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) has reviewed Dominion Energy Utah's (Dominion or Company) "Snow Shelter Inspection and Placement Progress Report" (Report) and has determined that it contains the required information as ordered. The Division recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge the most recent Report. While Dominion's Report is only one step in fulfilling the commitments agreed to in the Settlement Stipulation, Dominion is making progress to fulfill its obligations. No further action is required at this time.

Issue

Dominion filed its Report as agreed in the Settlement Stipulation. In approving the Settlement Stipulation, the Commission found that "the inspection and reporting schedules outlined in the Settlement are reasonable." This filing is Dominion's fourth Report for this program.

Division of Public Utilities

Heber M. Wells Building • 160 East 300 South • P.O. Box 146751 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6741
www.dpu.utah.gov • telephone (801) 530-7622 • toll-free in Utah (877) 874-0904 • fax (801) 530-6512

Background

On October 1, 2021, 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 October 18, 2022, Dominion sent the fourth Report updating its progress made through October 5, 2022. Also on that day, the Commission issued its Action Request directing the Division to review for compliance and make a recommendation on or before November 17, 2022. This memo provides the Division's Action Request Response and recommendation.

Discussion

The Settlement Stipulation contains several commitments designed to improve safety and to help prevent an incident similar to what occurred on February 16, 2019,¹ 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 information to the Division and Commission "related to meter snow shelters, including quarterly reports detailing its progress inspecting the remaining structures and snow shelter placements" and to inform regulators once all inspections have been completed. Dominion will also include an additional step in its regular five-year meter inspection cycle directed at determining whether snow protection is

¹ Order Approving Settlement Stipulation, January 20, 2022, Paragraph 1.

necessary. Finally, Dominion agreed to “contribute \$100,000 at shareholders’ expense to help cover the costs for the installation of new snow shelters.”²

In this filing, Dominion provides the results of its meter inspections and placements in Park City, Ogden Valley, Brian Head, and Cedar Highlands (areas most likely to experience high snowfall) as of October 5, 2022. This Report shows the following:

- Dominion employees have inspected 6,725 meters in the above-mentioned areas to determine if a Snow Shelter is needed over those meters. This number is the same as all previous reports.
- At the time of the initial inspection there were 1,903 Snow Shelters installed in these areas to protect the existing meters.
- The current report shows that the Company identified 2,150 meters that need Snow Shelters installed which is 39 less than the last report. This reduction is based on subsequent inspections which led to the determination that these did not need Snow Shelters.
- Of the 2,150 Snow Shelters that the Company identified, Dominion has installed 2,041, which represents an increase of 547 installations since the last Report.
- Of the 109 Snow Shelters that remain to be installed, Dominion plans to install 107 of them. There are no more Snow Shelters that Dominion expects customers to self-install.
- There are only 2 customers who object to having a Snow Shelter installed to protect their meter (26 less than the last report). Dominion’s plans to address the objections of these customers individually.
- The current Report provides the information in the same format as the initial and second Report.

The Division has reviewed the filing and finds that the Company is complying with the Commission’s order in reporting the information. Dominion expects to have Snow Shelters in place for the above-mentioned areas by the end of November 2022.

² Settlement Stipulation, October 1, 2021, Paragraph 19.

Conclusion

The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge Dominion's Snow Shelter Inspection and Replacement Report. This filing satisfies one part of the Settlement Stipulation agreement and Commission's Order. The Division notes that the objective of this program is to enhance customer safety and to help ensure that snow shelters will be installed in all appropriate locations. The Division will continue to monitor Dominion's compliance with its obligations under the Settlement Stipulation and the Commission's Order. Therefore, the Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the Report as compliant. This filing requests no change in the Company's current rates.

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