



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

Date: January 11, 2023

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. The Division recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge this final Report.

Dominion's final Report is the final step in fulfilling the commitments agreed to in the Settlement Stipulation. 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 fifth and final 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 December 13, 2022, Dominion sent the fifth and final Report updating its progress made through December 13, 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 January 12, 2023. 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 the one that 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 was also 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

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

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.”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 December 13, 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 2,140 meters that need Snow Shelters installed which is ten less than the last report. This reduction is based on subsequent inspections, which determined that these ten meters did not need Snow Shelters.
- Of the 2,140 Snow Shelters that the Company identified, all have been installed.
- There are no additional Snow Shelters that Dominion expects customers to self-install.
- There are no customers listed who object to having a Snow Shelter installed to protect their meter (2 less than the last report).
- The current Report provides the information in the same format as the previous Reports.

The Division has reviewed the information provided in the filing and finds that the Company is compliant with the Commission’s order in reporting the information. The Division also performed an audit review³ of the information the Company provided. The Division chose 12 samples of each of the following (for a total of 36) to examine for accuracy. As part of the

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

³ In using the term “Audit” the Division notes that it did not conduct an independent audit as defined and conducted under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards as promulgated under the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In this instance “Audit” means compliance review.

audit and verification process, the Division 'completed the following: 1) Reviewed the before and after photos showing where the Snow Shelters were installed. 2) Reviewed the documents showing that each Technician certified the date the Snow Shelters were installed. And 3) Conducted on-site visits to verify that the Snow Shelter was installed as reported by the Company. The results of the Division's review show that the information provided by the Company was accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Conclusion

The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge Dominion's Snow Shelter Inspection and Replacement Report as compliant. This filing satisfies this 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 and "that the Company has completed all necessary inspections and snow shelter placements in accelerated areas as outlined in paragraph 16 of the Settlement Stipulation". Therefore, based on the information provided and statements from the Company, all meters that should have snow shelters, now do, thus decreasing the likelihood of a similar incident to the February 16, 2019 one from occurring again. This will be the last quarterly snow shelter report.

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