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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Consumer Services

MICHELE BECK
Director

To: The Public Service Commission of Utah

From: The Office of Consumer Services

Michele Beck, Director
Béla Vastag, Utility Analyst

Date: January 18, 2023

Subject: Docket 22-057-24

Application of Dominion Energy Utah for Approval of Funding for the Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center

BACKGROUND

On December 21, 2022, Dominion Energy Utah (DEU) filed with the Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) a request for approval of a Settlement Stipulation to extend the funding for the Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center (IIAC). The IIAC is receiving funding from DEU as part of the Sustainable Transportation and Energy Plan Act (STEP) which was enacted by the Utah legislature in 2012 and outlined in Utah Code Title 54, Chapter 20. The Settlement Stipulation filed in this docket allows DEU to continue funding the STEP-related work of the IIAC for one (1) additional year at the same annual funding level and under the same requirements as established in the initial funding agreement. The initial funding for the IIAC, for a two (2) year pilot, was approved by the PSC on August 31, 2020, in Docket No. 19-057-33.

On December 29, 2022, the PSC issued a Scheduling Order for this docket that set a deadline of January 18, 2023 for parties to file initial comments and January 25, 2023 for reply comments on DEU's request for approval of the Settlement Stipulation allowing funding for the IIAC to extend for one additional year. Pursuant to the PSC's Order, the Utah Office of Consumer Services (OCS) submits these initial comments on DEU's filing.

OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT STIPULATION TO ALLOW AN EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR THE IIAC PROGRAM FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR

From the end of October 2022 through the middle of December 2022, DEU, OCS and the Utah Division of Public Utilities (DPU) conducted meetings and discussions to consider extending the work of the IIAC beyond its initial 2-year pilot which is scheduled to end on February 28, 2023. The parties agreed that it was appropriate to have the IIAC continue its STEP-related assessments for an additional year (until February 28, 2024) in order to achieve additional results and to allow for an orderly close-out of the IIAC STEP program. Parties also agreed it was reasonable to keep the annual funding level and other requirements the same as for the initial 2-year pilot period. Importantly, as part of the stipulation, DEU has agreed not to seek PSC approval for any additional funding for the IIAC and not to make any other additional funding requests for its STEP program through the sunset of the STEP Act on July 1, 2024. The OCS was an active participant in developing these terms and supports the stipulation.

Therefore, the OCS believes that this settlement stipulation is just and reasonable in result and in the public interest. The OCS recommends that the PSC approve it.

cc:

Jenniffer Nelson Clark, Dominion Energy Utah
Chris Parker, Division of Public Utilities
Email Service List