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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
Ryan Daigle, Utility Analyst

Date: October 4, 2023

Re: **Docket No. 23-057-T04**, Application of Dominion Energy Utah for a tariff modification to Section 8.03 of the Utah Natural Gas Tariff 600.

Recommendation (Approve)

The Utah Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) approve Dominion Energy Utah's (Dominion) tariff modification to Section 8.03 of its Utah Natural Gas Tariff No. 600 (Tariff) with an effective date of October 15, 2023.

Issue

In its application, Dominion seeks approval of a Tariff change that alters its current practices and clarifies the manner by which the Company identifies and includes participants in the Energy Assistance Program (Program). The proposed change will allow for the greatest number of participants to qualify but will not impact the payout to eligible participants. Dominion provided Exhibits 1.1A and 1.1B, which are the corresponding tariff sheets in legislative and final formats, respectively.

Division of Public Utilities

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Background

The Program commenced following the Commission's approval through its issuance of the Report and Order in Docket No. 10-057-08 on July 29, 2010. The Utah Department of Workforce Services Housing & Community Development (DWS) currently administers the Energy Assistance credit program. DWS provides monthly participant data to Dominion, which includes all customers eligible to receive Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT) fund assistance (HEAT list) as well as those who qualify for the Energy Assistance Fund credit (EA list). Although both the HEAT and the EA lists should be relatively similar, recently a sizable discrepancy has developed between the two lists. DWS is currently working on determining the reason for the discrepancy between the two lists. Until DWS has determined the reason for the discrepancy and implemented corrective action Dominion plans to utilize the HEAT list to provide the credit to those eligible customers instead of the EA list.

Discussion

The Division has reviewed the request to modify Section 8.03 of its Tariff, which implements the utilization of the HEAT fund assistance list to specify qualifying participants for the EA credit. The modification of the Tariff is more of a housekeeping item and does not impact those eligible for the EA program. The use of the HEAT list to identify qualified customers is a stopgap until DWS is able to identify the reason for the discrepancy between the two lists and provide the EA list as it has in the past.

During the review of the Dominion application, Division staff identified a few errors namely:

1. On page 1, line 1 the opening remarks "Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §53-3-3..." should be "Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §54-3-3..."
2. On page 2, line 8 of the Application the sentence "...has been operating operated the Program..." should instead read as "...has been operating the Program..."
3. On page 4 of the Application any instance denoted as "EW list" are meant to be "EA list".

The Division contacted Dominion representatives regarding the errors and the proposed corrections. Dominion personnel agree that there were errors in the original filing and agree with the proposed corrections.

Conclusion

The Division finds that the revised tariff language is compliant with the Commission's directive and intent as ordered in Docket No.10-057-08. Therefore, the Division recommends that the Commission approve the proposed tariff amendments with an effective date of October 15, 2023.

Approving the application will not result in reducing the number of eligible Dominion customers or reimbursement rate to those who have qualified to receive the bill credit through the Energy Assistance Fund.

cc: Jordan Stephenson, Dominion Energy Utah