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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Public Utilities

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Comments

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director
Brenda Salter, Assistant Director
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Shauna Benvegnu-Springer, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: March 13, 2024

Re: **Docket No(s). 24-057-01 & 22-057-18**, Dominion Energy Utah's Report on Energy Efficiency Expenditures and Dekatherm Savings to End of November 2023

Recommendation (Approve)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) approve Dominion Energy Utah's (Company or Dominion) additional expenses over their respective budgets for the ThermWise® Builder and Weatherization Rebate Programs. The Company's February 14, 2025, Energy Efficiency (EE) report for the year ending December 31, 2023, indicated that the expenses for all the programs combined completed the year at 94.7% of the budget, leaving \$1.5 million unspent.

Issue

On February 23, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period asking interested parties to submit comments on the expense that exceeded the PSC-approved 2023 budget on or before March 14, 2024. The Company filed its Report on ThermWise® Builder and Weatherization Rebate Programs on January 16, 2024, for the period ending November 30, 2023. The Company noted that the ThermWise® Builder

Division of Public Utilities

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Program would finish the year 103% over its approved budget, and the ThermWise Weatherization Program would finish the year 102% over its approved budget amount.

Background

The Commission's Order issued in Docket No. 09-057-15, dated January 12, 2010, stated the current requirement for the Company (Questar Gas at the time) was to report to the Commission when any energy efficiency program costs reach ninety percent (90%) of its budget, and if any energy efficiency program costs reach fifty percent (50%) of its budget before June 30 each year, or if any energy efficiency program costs are eighty percent (80%) of the budget by August. This memorandum addresses the Division's recommendation.

Discussion

The Company filed its end-of-year reports on February 14, 2024, for the EE Programs and Market Transformation Initiative (MTI) as of December 31, 2023. The EE Programs and MTI spent \$26.6 million of the \$28.1 million approved budget, or 94.7%. All programs were under budget except the ThermWise® Builder and Weatherization Programs. The Builder program overspent by \$217,644 or 2.6% of its approved budget. The Weatherization program overspent by \$64,094 or 0.8% of its approved budget. The total amount overspent was \$281,738 for the two programs.

When the Company filed its January 16, 2024, report, Dominion Energy Utah respectfully requested that the Commission approve the higher program budget levels. The Division recommends that the Commission approve the additional spending levels because Dominion did not overspend the total budget of \$28.1 million but rather underspent by \$1.5 million, including the \$281,738 overspent.

Conclusion

The Division recommends the Commission approve Dominion's request to have the additional expenses over their respective budgets for the ThermWise® Builder and Weatherization Rebate Programs approved. The expenses for all the programs combined completed the year at 94.7% of the budget, leaving \$1.5 million of the total budget unspent.

cc: Michael A. Orton, Dominion Energy Utah
Travis Willey, Dominion Energy Utah
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services