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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

Eric Orton, Utility Technical Consultant

**Date:** July 9, 2025

**Re:** **Docket No. 24-057-13**, In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Gas Utah to Extend Service to Portage, Utah.

## Recommendation (Approve)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) has reviewed Enbridge Gas Utah's (Enbridge or Company) request for review and consideration of an order to proceed to provide service to the Portage Utah area. The Division recommends the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) approve this request.

## Issue

Enbridge has determined that the proposed route to provide service to Portage, as identified in the Commission Order dated February 21, 2025, should be slightly different than what was approved. This request asks the Commission to issue an order allowing the Company to proceed using a different route.

## Background

On August 23, 2024, the Company submitted a notice of its intent to file "a voluntary request for approval of a resource decision under Utah Code Ann. § 54- 17-401 et seq. ("Voluntary Resource Decision Act"), to expand its natural gas distribution system to the rural area of Portage, Utah." On September 20, 2024, Enbridge filed its application, testimony, and



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exhibits. On October 29, 2024, Enbridge presented a Technical Conference outlining its plans and specifying how it would provide the Portage area with natural gas. On November 21, 2024, the Division filed direct testimony. On January 9, 2025, a Settlement Stipulation was agreed to and filed. On February 21, 2025, the Commission issued its Order approving the Settlement Stipulation.

The February 21, 2025, order gave the Company the go-ahead to do the work specified in the Settlement Stipulation outlining the plans to provide natural gas to the area of Portage. During the interim period between February 21, 2025, and the groundbreaking of the project, the Company decided to alter the proposed route. On June 23, 2025, the Company filed its Verified Request for Review and Consideration of an Order to Proceed. On June 27, 2025, the Division received an Action Request from the Commission directing it to review the request and make recommendations with a due date on or before July 18, 2025. On June 30, 2025, the Commission issued its Notice of Comment and Filing Period with comments due on or before July 21, 2025, with reply comments due on July 28, 2025. This is the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request as well as its initial comments.

## **Discussion**

During its preparatory work on this rural expansion project, the Company discovered a new route to lay the pipe transporting gas to the Portage area. The Company asserts that the new route will be no more expensive than the one currently authorized by the Commission. The proposed change is identified in Company Exhibit 6.01 and moves the location of the pipe from the originally approved option A route to roughly the old alternative B route. The new route is 3,478 linear feet shorter than the previously approved option A route and the necessary easements were not as difficult to obtain as the ones required for the original option A route.

The reason the Company is looking for Commission approval rather than altering the route without Commission approval is that it believes that this change in the route triggers a 'change in circumstances' as set forth in Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-404(1)(a) and Utah Admin Code R746-40- 3.

Utah Code §54-17-404(1)(a) states: “In the event of a change in circumstances or projected costs, an energy utility may seek a commission review and determination of whether the energy utility should proceed with the implementation of an approved resource decision.”

Utah Admin. Code R746-440-3 specifies that “when a utility seeks Commission review of or a determination for an Order to Proceed, it must submit exhibits and testimony” then lists the six filing requirements, which the Company provided.

In addition, the Company witnesses provided explanations for the proposed route change and stated, “the impact of the issuance of an Order to Proceed in the Portage Expansion Project, will have no additional impact on all Utah natural gas customers beyond what was already submitted in previous direct testimony.”

## **Conclusion**

The Division has reviewed the application. The Company appears compliant thus far in providing the evidence required to support an Order to Proceed as requested in the Application. The Division recommends the Commission approve the application as submitted and order Enbridge to proceed with the Portage area expansion.

cc: Kelly B. Mendenhall, Enbridge Gas Utah  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services