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Division of Public Utilities

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ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

To: Public Service Commission

From: Division of Public Utilities
Chris Parker, Director
Energy Section
Artie Powell, Manager
Doug Wheelwright, Technical Consultant
Eric Orton, Utility Analyst

Date: October 14, 2015

Subject: Courtesy Copy, Idaho Public Utilities Commission Case No. QST-G-15-01, QGC
Petition to Clarify its Service Territory Boundaries, Docket No. 15-999-02

In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Correspondence and Reports Regarding Gas Utility
Services; 2015

RECOMMENDATION

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) take no action at this time. However, at such time that Questar Gas Company (Company) petitions the Commission to offer service to Dayton, Franklin County, Idaho, the Company should notify the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Idaho) of the proceedings.

BACKGROUND

In 1990 Idaho granted the Company (Mountain Fuel Supply Company at that time) permission to provide “natural gas service to Communities in Franklin County, the town of Franklin, the city of Preston, and other communities in the vicinity of the proposed extension where service is determined to be economically feasible.” The Company has been providing natural gas service to the Preston and Franklin areas since that time.

Following that 1990 order the Company petitioned Idaho for an amendment to its ruling to allowing the Company’s new name to be used and transferring all rights from Mountain Fuel to Questar Gas. However, in this amendment, the service territory description was different than the 1990 order showing that the Company was permitted to serve the “southeastern portion of Franklin County”. With this recent filing in Idaho (QST-G-15-01) the Company sought clarification of its service territory boundary.

ISSUE

Entities in Dayton, Franklin County have approached the Company requesting it to extend service to this community. However, before the Company would commit to offer services in this area, it first wanted clarification from Idaho that it had the right to serve those customers. On June 22, 2015, the Company petitioned the Idaho Commission for an order clarifying that its certified service area boundaries includes all of Franklin County, Idaho. In the docket Idaho issued public notices of the proceedings with only its staff submitting comments. The Idaho staff determined that since the amendment also referenced the original order, that the service area description change was an oversight, and not intended to limit the Company’s service territory to areas within Franklin County but rather that its service territory covers the entire county.

On August 27, 2015 Idaho’s order # 33367 confirmed its staff determination and ruled that the Company has the right to provide service to all of Franklin County.

DISCUSSION

The Division reviewed all the documents on Idaho’s web site relevant to this docket. As a result of this research, it is the Division’s position that the Idaho order clarified the Company’s service

territory in Franklin County Idaho as requested. Since the Commission has effective jurisdiction over the Company's Idaho service territory, Idaho ordered the Company to notify the Commission of the proceeding. Therefore, on September 22, 2015 the Company notified the Commission of that filing and Idaho's corresponding order.

The Company was not seeking to expand its service territory, rather, to clarify the apparent discrepancy between the service area description in its original 1990 order and the different description in the amendment. The Idaho order clarified that the Company's service territory includes the entirety of Franklin County, Idaho.

CONCLUSION

The Division believes that the Company's filing was intended to be informational only and as such that no action is required at this time by the Commission and we recommend that no action be taken.

CC: Karl T Klein, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Jenniffer Clark, Questar Gas Company
Barrie McKay, Questar Gas Company