



State of 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

Artie Powell, Manager

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Michael Healy, Utility Analyst

**Date:** July 7, 2021

**Re:** **Docket No. 21-999-06**, Civil Penalty for Damages Sustained to Dominion Energy Gas Company's Service

### Recommendation (No Action)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) accept Dominion Energy Utah's (Dominion) civil penalty for damages sustained to Dominion's gas lines dated May 28, 2021 that contained a typographical error in the included letter.

### Issue

Dominion sent the Commission a payment to be deposited in the General Fund on May 28, 2021. The payment was for civil penalties for damages sustained to the company's gas lines and contained a letter, a check, and list of penalties collected. The letter stated that the payment was for \$220,000, the check was for \$225,000, and the grand total from the list of penalties collected was \$225,000. The Commission has asked the Division to review the payment for compliance and make a recommendation to the Commission.

## **Background**

Utah's excavation damage prevention laws, commonly called Blue Stakes laws, empower the Attorney General's Office, operators of underground facilities, and excavators to pursue remedies, including seeking civil penalties, against those who fail to comply with the Blue Stakes Laws. Monetary penalties collected are to be remitted to the State of Utah – General Fund. See Utah Code Ann. Section 54-8a-12. Pursuant to this authority, Dominion Energy Utah has sought, collected, and remitted monetary penalties to the State's General Fund.

## **Discussion**

The Division contacted Dominion concerning the difference between the dollar amount stated in the letter and the dollar amount of the check. Dominion confirmed with their accounting department that the check for \$225,000 and the grand total from the list of penalties collected were correct. Dominion also confirmed with the paralegal who wrote the letter that a typographical error had been made and that the correct amount stated in the letter should have been \$225,000.

## **Conclusion**

The Division has reviewed Dominion's payment of civil penalties for damages sustained to the company's gas lines to determine why there was a difference between dollar amounts in the letter, check, and list of penalties collected. The Division has received confirmation from Dominion that the difference was due to a typographical error in the letter only and that the check for \$225,000 and list of penalties collected are correct. Because the error was only in the letter, and the amount of the check matches the grand total from the list of penalties collected, with an acknowledgement from Dominion of the typographical error in the letter and a confirmation from their accounting department that the amount of the check is accurate, the Division concludes that the payment is in compliance and no action is required on the part of the Commission.

Cc: Shalise McKinlay, Dominion Energy Utah  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services