STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Case No. EEU-2010-06

In re: EEU Demand Resources Plan	

Order entered: 6/9/2017

ORDER CLOSING CASE

I. INTRODUCTION

The Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") initiated this workshop process to develop the first Long-Term Demand Resources Plan ("DRP") for the energy efficiency utility[1] ("EEU") program. A DRP includes short- and long-term energy efficiency budgets and energy savings goals, quantifiable performance indicators ("QPI") for each EEU for the three-year performance period, and descriptions of services to be provided by each EEU over the forecast periods. All long-term components of a DRP are revisited every three years through subsequent workshop processes.

The three-year performance period covered by the DRP that was the subject of this proceeding was 2012-2014.

In this Order, we close this proceeding.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 12, 2016, the Board issued an Order proposing to close this proceeding unless a request to keep it open was filed with the Board on or before August 29, 2016.

On August 22, 2016, Mr. Michael Wickenden filed a request that the Board keep this proceeding open until a final report on the Vermont Department of Public Service's ("DPS") EEU measurement and evaluation ("M&E") activities is produced by the DPS, circulated to participants in this proceeding for comment, and reviewed by the Board.

On September 16, 2016, the DPS filed a response to Mr. Wickenden's comments.

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[1] During the time period covered by this DRP, two EEUs delivered energy efficiency services in Vermont. Efficiency Vermont, which is operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation ("VEIC") delivered the EEU's services throughout most of the state. The City of Burlington Electric Department ("BED") delivered EEU services in its service territory.

III. Positions of the Parties

Mr. Wickenden notes that the budgets approved by the Board in this proceeding included amounts for DPS-managed EEU M&E activities. Mr. Wickenden states that, based on information provided by the DPS and VEIC in a joint March 2016 filing that quantified unspent 2012-2014 EEU M&E funding, the DPS spent only 45% of those Board-approved amounts. Mr. Wickenden adds that he has not been able to find any document explaining this variance or comparing the Board-approved 2012-2014 EEU evaluation plan with actual DPS-managed 2012-2014 EEU M&E activities. According to Mr. Wickenden, the Board retains ultimate responsibility for EEU evaluation, and information about the DPS's EEU M&E management would help the Board determine whether the "continued delegation of EEU M&E authority to the DPS is likely to be implemented in a manner consistent with approved plans and budgets."

The DPS supports closing this proceeding. The DPS notes that the Board approved the carryover of unspent M&E funds for the 2012-2014 performance period in its order of August 5, 2016, in EEU-2015-05; therefore, according to the DPS, there are no further issues that the Board needs to address. The DPS concurs that the Board has ultimate responsibility for EEU evaluation activities, but states that the Board does not need to keep this proceeding open to exercise this authority. Finally, the DPS disagrees with any suggestion by Mr. Wickenden that the DPS's implementation of the EEU M&E funds is in any way inconsistent with approved plans and budgets.

IV. Discussion and Conclusion

The DPS prepared various reports on specific evaluation activities related to the 2012-2014 performance period. The Board reviewed those reports at the time they were filed. In addition, as noted by the DPS, the Board has previously approved the disposition of unspent M&E funds for the 2012-2014 performance period. When the DPS requested the carryover of $1,750,000 of these funds, it identified specific activities that the monies would be used for, including market assessments, a residential heat pump study, a commercial heat pump study, the triennial independent audit of the EEU, and a redesign of the evaluation framework to replace the existing savings verification and Forward Capacity Market evaluations for the EEUs. The Board's Order approving the carryover of these funds included the Board's conclusion that "it is reasonable to use the Carryover Funds for the specific Department evaluation activities that have been identified, as well as for the triennial independent audit."[2] In that same Order, the Board further determined that the remaining $253,780 of unspent M&E funds would remain in the EEU Fund until a final determination has been made in Docket 8316 regarding whether costs that distribution utilities may incur to provide Efficiency Vermont with certain data are reimbursable from the Energy Efficiency Charge. Therefore, there is no need for the Board to obtain further information on the DPS's 2012-2014 EEU M&E activities at this time. To the extent that there are concerns related to the continued delegation of EEU M&E authority to the DPS, those should be raised in case number EEU-2016-03, which is the proceeding in which the DRP for the 2018-2020 performance period is now being developed.

There are no further unresolved issues in this proceeding. Accordingly, we hereby close it.

SO ORDERED.

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[2] EEU-2015-05, Order of 8/5/16 at 10.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 9th day of June, 2017.

James Volz	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
Margaret Cheney	)	BOARD
	)	
Sarah Hofmann	)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: June 9, 2017

Attest: Judith C. Whitney
Clerk of the Board

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@vermont.gov)