

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 19-0302-INV

Investigation to establish an Energy Savings Account partnership pilot program, establish a methodology for evaluation, measurement, and verification of Self-Managed Energy Efficiency Program and Energy Savings Account projects, and review the Customer Credit Program	
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Order entered: 07/29/2019

ORDER RE ENERGY SAVINGS ACCOUNT PILOT PROGRAM

In today's Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") adopts the conclusions and recommendations made in the Hearing Officer's proposal for decision.

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Public Act 150 of the 2018 Vermont legislative session,¹ the Commission opened an investigation to establish an Energy Savings Account ("ESA") partnership pilot program and a methodology for evaluation, measurement, and verification of the Self-Managed Energy Efficiency Program ("SMEEP") and ESA pilot program projects.

In a May 15, 2019, Order, the Commission established the ESA pilot program, including the criteria for customer selection in order to allow customer selection for the program to be completed on or before July 1, 2019.

On May 24, 2019, Efficiency Vermont, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department"), and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development ("ACCD") issued a request for proposals to solicit customers to the ESA pilot program.

In a July 1, 2019, filing, Efficiency Vermont, the Department, and ACCD provided the customers selected for participation in the ESA pilot program. The eleven customers selected had total annual energy efficiency charge contributions of approximately \$1.6 million.

¹ Public Act No. 150 (2018 Vt. Adj. Sess.).

In the July 1, 2019, filing, Efficiency Vermont, ACCD, and the Department noted that the ESA pilot program is not fully subscribed.² Efficiency Vermont, the Department, and ACCD requested permission to issue a second request for proposals to solicit additional customers in an effort to fully subscribe the program. Efficiency Vermont, the Department, and ACCD represented that they intend to issue the request for proposals as soon as approval is received from the Commission, and that the second request for proposals will include a program end date of June 30, 2022, consistent with the initial request for proposals.

No comments were received on the request to issue an additional request for proposals.

II. DISCUSSION

I recommend that the Commission grant the request from Efficiency Vermont, the Department, and ACCD to issue a second request for proposals to solicit additional customers in an effort to fully subscribe the program. The request is consistent with the requirements under Act 150 to establish the ESA pilot program.

Section 2(d) of Act 150 requires Efficiency Vermont, the Department, and ACCD to jointly select customers to participate in the program from among the customers that submit responses to a request for proposals and notify the Commission of the selected customers. Customer selection is required to be completed before July 1, 2019. Efficiency Vermont, the Department, and ACCD have met the requirements of Section 2(d) by selecting eleven customers to participate in the ESA pilot program. The selected customers have total annual energy efficiency charge contributions of approximately \$1.6 million.

Section 2(b) of Act 150 requires that the total amount of customer energy efficiency charge funds “available in the pilot program each year shall not exceed \$2 million.” A second request for proposals will allow the remaining \$0.4 million in program capacity to be subscribed and is not prohibited by Act 150. The second request for proposals will allow for more customer participation and will potentially expand the diversity of project types participating in the ESA pilot program. The second request for proposals will not change or disadvantage the initial eleven customers selected to participate in the program. The second request for proposals will include a program end date of June 30, 2022, consistent with the initial request for proposals.

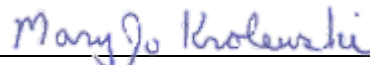
² Section 2(b) of Public Act 150 provides that the total amount of customer energy efficiency charge funds “available in the pilot program each year shall not exceed \$2 million.” Public Act No. 150 (2018 Vt. Adj. Sess.).

III. CONCLUSION

I recommend that the Commission adopt the above proposal to allow a second request for proposals to solicit customers to participate in the ESA pilot program.

This proposal for decision has not been circulated to the parties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 811 because it is not adverse to any party.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 29th day of July, 2019



Mary Jo Krolewski
Hearing Officer

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

1. The conclusions and recommendations of the Hearing Officer are adopted.
2. This case is remanded to the Hearing Officer for further proceedings.

PUC Case No. 19-0302-INV - SERVICE LIST

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