

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

CASE NO. 19-1270-TF

IN RE: INVESTIGATION INTO WASHINGTON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.'S TARIFF
FILING FOR RATE DESIGN CHANGES AND A
CHANGE IN RATE SCHEDULES TO BE EFFECTIVE
ON SERVICES RENDERED BEGINNING JUNE 17, 2019

August 5, 2019
7 p.m.

60 Church Street
E. Montpelier, Vermont

Public Hearing held before the
Vermont Public Utility Commission, at the Old Brick
Church, 60 Church Street, E. Montpelier, Vermont, on
August 5, 2019, beginning at 7 p.m.

P R E S E N T

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Anthony Z. Roisman, Chairman

STAFF: Andrea Poppiti, Utilities Analyst
Andrew Flagg, Utilities Analyst

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INDEXSpeakerPage

Michael Duane

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1 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Welcome. Good
2 evening. This is a public hearing in Case No.
3 19-1270-TF which is the Public Utility Commission's
4 investigation into the tariff filing of Washington
5 Electric Cooperative proposing rate design changes
6 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Sections 225 and 226.

7 My name is Anthony Roisman, and I'm the
8 chair of the Vermont Public Utility Commission. With
9 me today are Andrea Poppiti and Andy Flagg,
10 commission staff. There are also representatives of
11 WEC here as well as representatives from the Vermont
12 Department of Public Service whom I believe you've
13 already met. They conducted an information session
14 just prior to this public hearing and are available
15 for questions after the hearing.

16 The purpose of today's hearing is for
17 us to hear comments from you and members of the
18 public about WEC's proposed rate design changes.
19 Although public comments do not become part of the
20 formal evidence in this case, your comments are
21 helpful in raising new issues or perspectives that
22 the commission should consider, so we look forward to
23 hearing your input.

24 This hearing is being transcribed by a
25 court reporter. The transcript of this public

1 hearing will be available on ePUC, the commission's
2 electronic case management system, and we have given
3 you some instructions on how you can access that
4 system. It's very simple. I did it this afternoon
5 myself and -- so to make sure that I said it was
6 simple, I was telling you the truth. And the court
7 reporter quite remarkably will, in very few days,
8 have the transcript of this proceeding, and it will
9 be posted on ePUC and there will be a notation of it
10 on the PUC's website.

11 So if you just went to the website you
12 will see the link. The link would then take you to
13 ePUC, and you can log in to ePUC either as a guest,
14 in which case you don't even have to give us your
15 name, or you can give us your name and one line of
16 your address so that all the Bill Smiths in Vermont
17 are separated one from the other. And you can -- in
18 that site, the ePUC site, you can follow every single
19 filing in this case. You can read every single
20 transcript. You can know the schedule. You can
21 know when events are happening, and you can file
22 public comments beyond whatever comments you may make
23 tonight and leave comments that -- read comments that
24 other people have filed. So it's easily accessible,
25 and we encourage you, if you have any thoughts, to

1 please express them either tonight or in written
2 comments to us.

3 If you wish to speak, you've written
4 your name on the sign-up sheet and this will assist
5 the court reporter with the correct spelling of your
6 name and to help make the process more orderly. This
7 is not the only opportunity to make comments. You
8 can provide, as I mentioned, written comments using
9 ePUC. Please be sure to use the Case No. 19-1270-TF.

10 Over the course of this investigation
11 the commission may direct the utility to respond to
12 the issues that are raised at this hearing. So if
13 you raise questions here tonight, they won't be
14 responded to here tonight, but the commission may ask
15 the utility to provide a response which will be filed
16 in ePUC where you can see it.

17 At various points of the proceeding the
18 commission will also ask questions that may be based
19 on issues raised in public comments, and in the final
20 decision in this case, we will address those public
21 comments that raised issues that we believe need to
22 be responded to and where there is some question that
23 needs to be answered by the commission. When the
24 commission decides the case, there are three
25 commissioners, a Commissioner Cheney and Commissioner

1 Hofmann and myself, and that decision will be issued
2 sometime before the end of the year if I remember
3 what our schedule is.

4 MS. POPPITI: Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Okay. So we are now
6 open to hear what you have to say. So -- and I see
7 one new person has come in.

8 Do you wish to speak tonight?

9 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: No.

10 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Okay. Anyone have
11 any comments?

12 MS. POPPITI: Michael Duane.

13 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Michael Duane?

14 MR. DUANE: Right here. Thanks.
15 Michael Duane from East Montpelier. I was here for
16 the presentation earlier, and I had a few questions.
17 They were adequately answered by the board members
18 and staff that were present.

19 I probably use about between 250 and
20 300 kilowatthours a month over the course of the
21 year. And I have faith in our Co-op board, and I
22 support the rate design tariff filing.

23 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Thank you. Thank
24 you for coming. Wendall -- I'm sorry. Your writing
25 is almost as bad as --

1 MR. LAUNDRY: Laundry. Just like doing
2 it.

3 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Laundry. Oh, okay.
4 You have a comment?

5 MR. LAUNDRY: No. At this time, I
6 don't.

7 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Okay. Ron Shems?

8 MR. SHEMS: Oh. I thought it was for
9 everyone's names, but I have no comments.

10 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: Mr. Shems is the
11 attorney for Washington Electric Co-op, and he gets
12 to speak frequently at the hearing. Okay.

13 MS. POPPITI: Cheryl is also from WEC.

14 MS. WILLETTE: Ron handed me the paper.

15 CHAIRMAN ROISMAN: You need to watch
16 out for that. This day and age you could be signing
17 almost anything.

18 Well does anybody else have any
19 comments? Well then I guess we can close this
20 proceeding. We can consider it done. It's 10 after
21 now. Thank you all for coming.

22 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
23 adjourned at 7:10 p.m.)

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kim U. Sears, do hereby certify that I recorded by stenographic means the Public Hearing re: Case No. 19-1270-TF at the Old Brick Church, 60 Church Street, E. Montpelier, Vermont, on August 5, 2019, beginning at 7 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting and the foregoing 7 pages are a transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the evidence and the proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties thereto or their counsel, and I am in no way interested in the outcome of said cause.

Dated at Williston, Vermont, this 7th day of August, 2019.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim U. Sears".

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