

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0789-INV

Vermont Public Utility Commission orders and memoranda issued in response to COVID-19 pandemic	
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Order entered: 03/31/2020

ORDER RE FILING OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Both the State of Vermont and the federal government have declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the new coronavirus known as COVID-19. The Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) recognizes the importance of helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Vermont.

While the Commission is continuing to conduct business, as of March 26, 2020, all Commission employees are working remotely. Regular mail sent to the Commission’s office is only being picked up by a Commission employee once a week. In addition, because the Commission’s building is closed to the public, FedEx, UPS, and courier services are not able to deliver to the Commission’s offices.

For these reasons, for all confidential documents filed on or after March 31, 2020, and through June 1, 2020, the Commission is waiving the requirement in Commission Rule 2.204(C) that:

Filing shall be accomplished by delivery to the clerk at the office of the Commission or by delivery to the Commission during the course of a hearing. Regardless of the method of delivery employed, filing occurs only upon receipt by the clerk or the Commission, as the case may be.

Similarly, for confidential documents filed on or after March 31, 2020, and through June 1, 2020, in cases being processed in ePUC, the Commission is waiving the portion of Section IV.(c) of the Commission’s “Standards and Procedures Applicable to Electronic Filing Using ePUC” that requires hard copies of confidential documents to be filed with the Commission within one business day of the date on which the non-confidential version of the document was filed using ePUC.

Instead, during this time period, confidential documents should be filed with the Commission via email sent to puc.clerk@vermont.gov. The subject line of all such emails must

start with the words “Confidential documents attached” and must include the case number in which the documents are being filed. In addition, filers must follow up by mailing one hard copy to the Commission using first-class mail.¹ Please note that the requirements for serving copies of confidential documents on other parties to a proceeding are not waived.

Copies of annual reports filed with the Vermont Department of Public Service pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 22 may be filed with the Commission in the same manner as other confidential documents, except that the filers do not need to follow up by mailing a hard copy of the annual report to the Commission.

Anyone wishing to file confidential documents that are not related to a specific case or an annual report should contact the Commission at puc.clerk@vermont.gov for instructions prior to filing the documents.

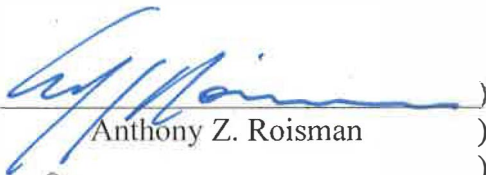
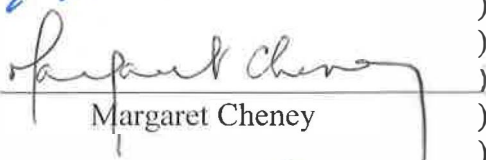
The Commission will continue to monitor the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic to determine whether the waivers granted in this order and the temporary requirements for filing confidential information with the Commission need to be extended beyond June 1, 2020.

The Commission encourages stakeholders to subscribe to this case in ePUC to receive automatic notifications of any future orders issued by the Commission related to changes to its operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instructions on how to subscribe to a case in ePUC are available at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/epuc-information/subscribe-case> If you need further assistance, please contact the ePUC system administrator at puc.ePUCadmin@vermont.gov.

SO ORDERED.

¹ To the extent that Commission Rule 2.204(D) requires additional paper copies to be filed with the Commission, the Commission is also waiving that requirement for all confidential documents filed on or after March 31, 2020, and through June 1, 2020.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 31st day of March, 2020

	)	
Anthony Z. Roisman	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
	)	
	)	
Margaret Cheney	)	COMMISSION
	)	
	)	
Sarah Hofmann	)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 31, 2020

Attest: 
Clerk of the Commission

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

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.