

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0097-INV

In re: Biennial update of the net-metering program	
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Order entered: 04/16/2020

ORDER STAYING PROCEEDING

On April 1, 2020, the Vermont Department of Public Service (the “Department”) moved for a stay of these proceedings because of the COVID-19 emergency. The Department states that new solar installations have been deemed nonessential activities and are not being allowed to continue for the duration of Executive Order 01-20, Addendum 6 (March 2020).¹ The Department anticipates that some solar installers may request a waiver of the procedural timelines for this proceeding contained in Commission Rule 5.128. The Department requests a stay until further information is available.

On April 2, 2020, Renewable Energy Vermont (“REV”) requested a 120-day stay of this proceeding for similar reasons.

On April 9, 2020, Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”) responded in support of the motions. GMP suggested that the Commission schedule a status update by June 1, 2020, for participants to provide additional information. GMP requested that the Commission address how the utilities should handle data collection, reporting, and evaluation because these activities have been done on a July-to-July basis in prior years.

On April 10, 2020, Green Lantern Solar responded in support of the motions to stay this proceeding.

Commission Rule 5.128(G) requires the Commission to issue a decision on any revisions to net-metering credit rate adjustors by May 1, 2020. Except where prohibited by statute or by the terms of a rule itself, the Commission may for good cause grant exceptions in particular cases

¹ Exec. Order No. 01-20, Addendum 6 (effective Mar. 25, 2020 until May. 15, 2020) *available at* <https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%206%20TO%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf>. These restrictions were extended until May 15, 2020, in Exec. Order No. 01-20, Addendum 9 (effective April 10, 2020, until May. 15, 2020) *available at* <https://governor.vermont.gov/addendum-9-executive-order-01-20>.

to any provision of its rules.² Based on the information presented by the Department's and REV's unopposed motions, the Commission finds good cause to waive the requirement of Rule 5.128(G) and will issue a final determination in this proceeding at a later date after considering information about the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on net-metering. The Commission also waives Rule 5.128(H)'s requirement that utilities must file updated tariffs by May 15, 2020.

Accordingly, this proceeding is stayed until August 3, 2020. In response to GMP's request for guidance about data collection, reporting, and evaluation, the Commission directs each electric distribution utility to continue to record information about all net-metering CPG applications and interconnection requests received by the utility and systems interconnected to the utility's grid. On August 3, 2020, the distribution utilities must report net-metering data for the period of January 2, 2020, through July 1, 2020.³ The Commission requests that the distribution utilities and the Department work together to develop a common reporting format for this data. The Commission thinks that the excel spread sheet filed by GMP on March 9, 2020, in this proceeding would be an adequate template but the utilities and the Department should confer to ensure that a common reporting format works for all utilities and the Department.

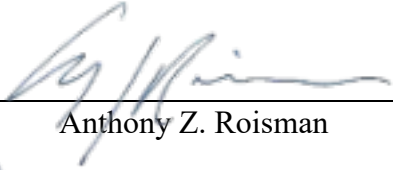
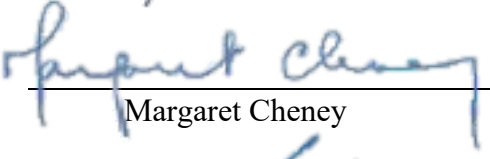
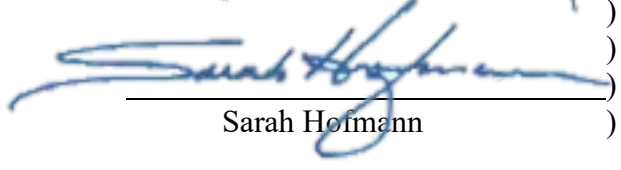
On August 17, 2020, participants may file additional information relevant to the Commission's consideration of the criteria contained in Rule 5.128(b) and (c) and revised recommendations about whether the Commission should revise net-metering compensation pursuant to Commission Rule 5.128(A).

SO ORDERED.

² Commission Rule 1.200.

³ "Net-metering data" includes the information required by Rule 5.128(D) and the information requested by the Commission in the Order of January 16, 2020, in this proceeding.

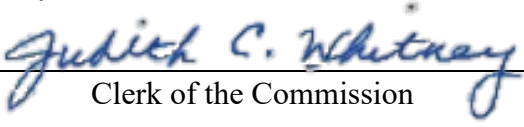
Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 16th day of April, 2020.

 _____ Anthony Z. Roisman	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
 _____ Margaret Cheney	)	
 _____ Sarah Hoffmann	)	

COMMISSION
OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: April 16, 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)

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