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	

Order entered: 06/30/2020

ORDER CONFIRMING THAT COMMISSION DOES NOT INTEND TO HOLD SITE VISITS THROUGH OCTOBER 27, 2020

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.

Social distancing is one step that helps slow the spread of this virus. As a result, the Commission examined its procedural requirements to identify those that require close personal contact and to review whether those requirements could be temporarily modified during this public health emergency without adversely affecting other parties' procedural rights.

The Commission promulgated Emergency Rule 2.500 to modify those procedural requirements that were contained in the Commission's rules. Emergency Rule 2.500 will be in effect until October 27, 2020, unless the Commission withdraws it sooner.

In addition, the Commission previously announced that it did not intend to hold any site visits through the end of June 2020.

This order confirms that the Commission does not intend to hold any site visits through October 27, 2020.[1] The Commission continues to anticipate that it would be difficult to maintain proper social distancing requirements at an in-person site visit. In addition, because the purpose of a site visit is for Commissioners or hearing officers to see the actual physical site of a proposed project, the Commission does not believe that remote site visits will fulfill that purpose.

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic to determine whether any changes to this decision may be appropriate.

[1] This aligns the time period during which the Commission does not intend to hold site visits with the time period that Emergency Rule 2.500 will be in effect.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 30th day of June, 2020.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: June 30, 2020

Attest: _____
Deputy 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)