

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 19-2956-INV

Investigation pursuant to Act 62 into the creation of an all-fuels energy efficiency program, expansion of energy efficiency utility programs and services, and funding options for those programs	
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Order entered: 07/06/2020

INFORMATION REQUEST

On June 5, 2020, I issued a memorandum indicating that staff of the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) would be issuing a series of information requests focused on distinct topics. This information request is focused on two of the Act 62 topics: (1) how to provide consistent, adequate, and equitable funding for energy efficiency, conservation, and related programs and services, including for an all-fuels efficiency program and expanded programs and services that efficiency utilities may provide, and (2) whether and how to create an all-fuels efficiency program to provide for the coordinated development, implementation, and monitoring of efficiency, conservation, and related programs and services as to all regulated fuels, unregulated fuels, and fossil fuels.

Funding

1. In its March 20, 2020 comments, Efficiency Vermont offered to provide impact analysis of the incremental level of weatherization and thermal services that could be provided with different revenue streams. The Commission requests that Efficiency Vermont, and any other party interested in doing so, provide this impact analysis with an explanation of the assumptions used to complete the modeling. The Commission welcomes modeling that reflects particular funding sources but is also interested in modeling that shows the incremental level of weatherization and thermal services that could be provided over a range of funding levels. It will be most useful if the range of funding levels include reference to Vermont-specific goals, for example Vermont’s greenhouse gas

reduction goals (10 V.S.A. § 578), Vermont's building energy goals (10 V.S.A. § 581), or Vermont's commitment to the Paris Agreement.

2. The Commission requests any reports, updates, or current modeling work being done to look at the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals, building energy goals, or Vermont's commitment to the Paris Agreement. In particular, the Commission seeks information related to funding levels, cost-effectiveness, and cost-of-carbon reduction measures, strategies, or policies.
3. For any funding levels identified in response to questions 1 and 2, participants are requested to state whether existing funding sources are consistent and adequate to achieve those funding levels. If existing sources are not adequate, participants are requested to state whether they recommend additional funding to reach those levels, and the optimal source(s) of the additional funding.
4. The Commission requests any reports, updates, or current modeling that look at the economic impacts of funding all-fuels efficiency.¹ The Commission requests information on whether any participant, or any other State of Vermont agency, is able to perform economic impact analysis of new funding sources and funding levels for all-fuels efficiency.
5. What has been the cost per ton of carbon dioxide avoided through Vermont utilities' Tier 3 programs in each of the past three years, and on average?
6. If new funds for all-fuels efficiency are authorized, how should all-fuels efficiency measures or programs be prioritized? What is the basis for that prioritization?
7. The Commission requests any reports, updates, analyses, or proposals for new funding sources for all-fuels efficiency, including those reviewed by the Thermal Efficiency Task Force for its 2013 report. Participants are requested to offer any opinions regarding the use of State revenue bonds or the General Fund to support additional all-fuels efficiency.

¹ See, e.g., Kuckshinrichs, Kronenberg & Hansen, KfW Bakengruppe, *Impact on Public Budgets of KfW Promotional Programmes in the Field of "Energy-Efficient Building and Rehabilitation"* (2011), available at <https://www.kfw.de/migration/Weiterleitung-zur-Startseite/Homepage/KfW-Group/Research/PDF-Files/Energy-efficient-building-and-rehabilitation.pdf>.

All-fuels program

1. Throughout the proceedings leading up to the Commission's preliminary Act 62 Report, several parties proposed statutory language recommendations. These statutory changes were not addressed in the Commission's preliminary report. At this time, please provide the Commission with any recommended statutory changes regarding the creation of an all-fuels efficiency program (referencing past submissions as appropriate) and a response to other parties' proposed statutory changes.
2. In its September 16, 2019 comments, Efficiency Vermont offered a straw proposal for modernizing its EEU. Please provide comments on whether you support this proposal and whether it can serve as a model for the other EEUs. Please also include any comments about how Efficiency Vermont's proposal fits within an all-fuels efficiency program framework and how other entities—EEUs, DUs, or third parties—fit within that framework.
3. Please provide comments on whether an all-fuels efficiency program should have a dedicated coordinator. If it should, who should serve in this role and why? If the coordinator should be selected through a particular process, please outline your proposal for selection of an all-fuels efficiency coordinator. Do you have recommendations for establishing standards for measuring coordination and/or effective efficiency administration? Please provide any additional recommendations for how an appropriate division of labor amongst entities can be achieved.

Participants are requested to file responses to this information request by August 7, 2020. Any responsive comments should be filed August 17, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

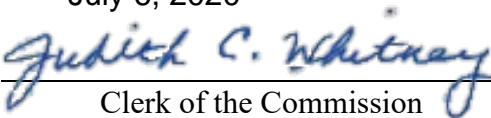
Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6th day of July, 2020.



Thomas Knauer
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: July 6, 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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