

October 16, 2020

William J. Dodge
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Via ePUC

Judith Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: PUC Case No. 20-2369-RULE
DRM Preliminary Comments on Proposed Changes to Rule 2

Dear Judy:

Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC represents a variety of clients before the Commission for projects and operations in energy, telecommunications, cable and other industries. On behalf of the Firm, we generally support the thoughtful and thorough comments filed to date by the Department, the Natural Resources Board, the Agency of Natural Resources, and other practitioners in this rulemaking proceeding, and in particular with respect to:

- i. Substitution of bulleted lists for romanettes, letters, numbers, or other identifiers;¹
- ii. Reconsideration of the proposed page limitations for motions and replies in Rule 2.204(E)(1) (or at least inclusion of a “good cause” exception);²
- iii. Reconsideration of the limits on the number of interrogatories in Rule 2.214(A);³
- iv. Maintenance of the current requirements for intervention under Rule 2.209, given the absence of demonstrated need for changes to this well-supported rule, and the robust case law supporting application of its existing language;⁴
- v. Modifications to the standards relating to the proposed 30-day time frame in Rule 2.206;⁵ and
- vi. Simplification through ePUC to avoid the need for stand-alone notices of appearance under Rule 2.201(A), particularly in rulemakings and other more open-participation processes.⁶

¹ See ePUC [432446/151626](#), [434285/151626](#)

² See ePUC [432446/151626](#), [432345/151626](#), [434285/151626](#)

³ See ePUC [432446/151626](#), [432345/151626](#), [434285/151626](#)

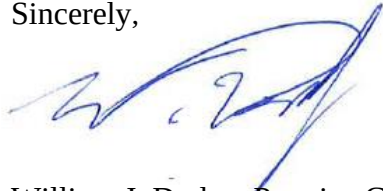
⁴ See ePUC [432354/151626](#), [432325/151626](#)

⁵ See ePUC [431520/151626](#), [432446/151626](#)

⁶ See ePUC [432228/151626](#)

We join those that have requested a comment / workshop process—ideally through a videoconference—in order to provide an opportunity in an open forum to elaborate upon these general points.⁷ Thanks to you, the Commissioners, and the Commission staff for commencing this important effort, and for your consideration of these preliminary comments.

Sincerely,



William J. Dodge, Practice Group Chair, DRM Regulated Entities Group

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⁷ See ePUC [432446/151626](#), [432307/151626](#)