

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-3832-TF

Tariff Filing of Green Mountain Power Corporation for approval to implement new public electric vehicle charging station rate schedule exemption effective on bills rendered on or after January 30, 2021	
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Order entered: 01/29/2021

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

On December 16, 2020, Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”) filed proposed tariff changes to its General Services Rate Schedule 6 (“Rate 6”) with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) effective with bills rendered on and after January 30, 2021. The proposed changes are intended to encourage the installation of fast-charging electric vehicle (“EV”) equipment (“charging stations”).

These modifications will allow separately metered charging stations to be exempt from the threshold kW and kWh limitations in Rate 6. GMP customers would not be subject to monthly demand charges solely as a result of installing publicly available EV charging infrastructure. The intent of this proposal is to remove an existing financial barrier and to encourage deployment of publicly available fast-charging stations in GMP’s service territory.

On January 15, 2021, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments on the proposed tariff change recommending that the revisions be approved without a hearing or further investigation (“Department Comments”). The Department noted that while “exempting commercial EV installations from monthly demand charges creates a risk that increased costs will exceed incremental revenues from new EV charging stations, the Department is satisfied that current load demand from EV charging stations is sufficiently low to justify at least a temporary exemption from rate classes that would otherwise include demand charges for these installations.”¹ In order to ensure that the use of the exemption does not lead to unreasonable cost-shifts as EV deployment expands in future years, the Department recommends

¹ Department Comments at 1.

that GMP annually file a report with the Commission and the Department describing fast-charging station deployment, use, and coincident peak loads.²

On January 15, 2021, GMP filed comments stating that it agrees to the reporting requirement proposed by the Department (“GMP Reply Comments”). GMP indicates that “if charging data reveal that our assumptions about peak coincidence require adjustment, we will work with the Department to modify the rate design to serve this type of equipment. ... As the equipment is used more frequently, the likelihood of coinciding with peaks will increase, but so will the revenue from those additional kWh sales. Monitoring this effect along the way is appropriate and welcome.”³

Demand charges are a significant barrier to the development of electric vehicle supply equipment.⁴ The Commission supports utility efforts to develop tariffs that provide electric service to publicly available EV-charging stations. In the Commission’s report to the Vermont State Legislature “Promoting the Ownership and Use of Electric Vehicles in the State of Vermont” (June 27, 2019), the Commission recommended that Vermont’s electric distribution utilities explore tariffs that would encourage the deployment of charging stations while providing appropriate cost recovery to the utility so that other customer classes are not subsidizing charging-station customers.⁵ The exemption proposed by GMP in this tariff change is responsive to the Commission’s recommendation.

GMP has demonstrated that the exemption will not result in any cross-subsidy between customer classes at this time. The reporting requirements recommended by the Department will allow the Commission to monitor potential cross-subsidies as public EV-charging stations become more widely available. Accordingly, GMP is required to file annual reports with the information described in the ordering paragraphs below for a period of five years.

² Department Comments at 2.

³ GMP Reply Comments at 2.

⁴ *Report to the State Legislature: Promoting the Ownership and Use of Electric Vehicles in the State of Vermont* at 10. Available at <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/report-vermont-legislature-use-and-ownership-electric-vehicles>.

⁵ *Id.* at 22.

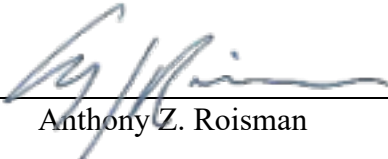
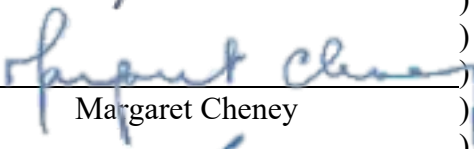

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) that:

1. The tariff changes proposed in this case are approved to take effect with bills rendered on and after January 30, 2021.
2. Annually, for a period of five years, or until such time as further modification to this exemption is approved, Green Mountain Power Corporation shall submit a report to the Commission that includes the following data and information:⁶
 - (a) The total number of publicly accessible DC fast charger locations using the Rate 6 exemption;
 - (b) The total number of publicly accessible DC fast charger locations using the Rate 6 exemption that were installed within the previous twelve months;
 - (c) The total number of publicly accessible DC fast charger locations that do not use the Rate 6 exemption (if known to GMP); and
 - (d) Actual evidence of limited coincident peak contribution – provision of actual load characteristics of the charging stations that utilize the demand charge exemption and reporting of actual costs incurred (including a quantitative or qualitative discussion of transmission and distribution infrastructure impacts on local circuits).

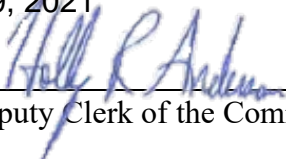
⁶ The report should be submitted in the compliance portion of this case.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 29th day of January, 2021.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: January 29, 2021

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)

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.

PUC Case No. 20-3832-TF - SERVICE LIST

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