

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0789-INV

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| Vermont Public Utility Commission orders and memoranda issued in response to COVID-19 pandemic |  |
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Order entered: 05/13/2021

**ORDER ANNOUNCING COMMISSION WILL DECIDE WHETHER  
TO HOLD SITE VISITS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS**

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.

The Commission previously announced that it did not intend to hold any site visits through June 30, 2021, because the Commission anticipated that it would be difficult to maintain social distancing requirements at an in-person site visit. However, at the time the Commission announced that decision, it stated that it would continue to monitor the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic to determine whether any changes to that decision might be appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

Since the Commission’s April 13, 2021, order, Governor Scott has modified the guidance for business operations, including outdoor events.<sup>2</sup> As a result, the Commission has determined that it is appropriate to modify its earlier decision regarding site visits. The Commission and individual hearing officers will now consider requests to hold a site visit on a case-by-case basis.

Consistent with current social distancing requirements, the Commission expects that all attendees at site visits will make best efforts to maintain a six-foot distance from other attendees who are not members of their household. However, the Commission recognizes that given a particular site’s physical characteristics, that may not always be possible to achieve. As a result,

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<sup>1</sup> *Vermont Public Utility Commission orders and memoranda issued in response to COVID-19 pandemic*, Case No. 20-0789-INV, Order of 4/13/21 at 2.

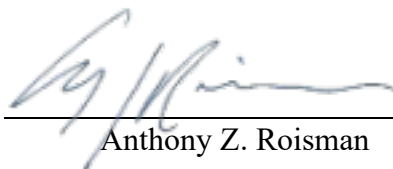
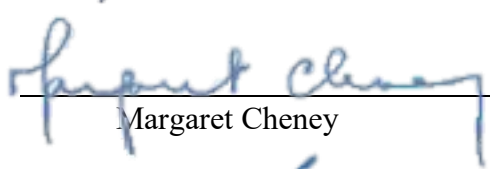
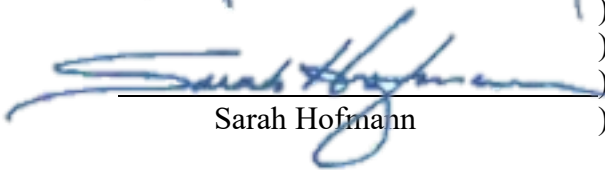
<sup>2</sup> See Addendum 15 to Amended and Restated Exec. Order No. 01-20 (“Addendum 15”), April 30, 2021, available at <https://governor.vermont.gov/content/addendum-15-amended-and-restated-executive-order-no-01-20>, <https://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward#gsc.tab=0>, and <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/vermont-forward/events-and-gatherings>.

consistent with Addendum 15 and until further notice, the Commission directs all attendees at site visits held by the Commission or a hearing officer to wear masks or cloth facial coverings during the site visits.

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

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 13th day of May, 2021.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: May 13, 2021

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](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov))*