



LEGAL COUNSELORS & ADVOCATES PLC
P.O. Box 827 • Castleton, VT • 05735

Leslie A. Cadwell
lac@lac-lca.com
802-342-3114

April 13, 2022

Holly R. Anderson, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Case No. 22-0334-INV; Washington Electric Department, Inc.

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The Public Utility Commission is investigating improper net-metering billing by Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) in Case No. 22-0822-INV. The Commission issued an information request to WEC in its order opening that investigation that is relevant to the above-referenced biennial review of net-metering rates. The information request states as follows:

In Case No. 22-0334-INV, WEC submitted data concerning the net-metering systems interconnected in its service territory. The data include the rate adjustors applicable to each system and the date that each system applied for a certificate of public good ("CPG"). The data indicate that several systems that are classified as "NM 1.0" systems are receiving renewable energy certificate ("REC") adjustors. The Commission's rules state that such pre-existing net-metering systems are not subject to REC adjustors or siting adjustors. WEC is requested to explain whether any NM 1.0 systems are receiving REC or siting adjustors and if so, whether those systems' bills are being computed in a manner consistent with the Commission's rules.

Holly R. Anderson, Clerk
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Order Opening Proceeding, Notice of Scheduling Conference, And Information Request,
Case No. 22-0822-INV, Order of 3/16/2022 at 2. It does not appear from the case
log in this case that the Commission provided notice of this issue to the parties.
For that reason, I am filing a copy of the order with this letter, and I recommend
that the Commission require WEC to file a copy of its response to the Case No.
22-0822-INV information request in this case and allow the parties an
opportunity to comment on it.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this filing.

Very truly yours,



Leslie A. Cadwell

Enclosure



STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 22-0822-INV

Investigation into the net-metering billing practices of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.	
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Order entered: 03/16/2022

ORDER OPENING PROCEEDING, NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE, AND INFORMATION REQUEST

I. INTRODUCTION

In Case No. 21-1816-PET, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) denied a declaratory ruling petition filed by Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“WEC”) concerning WEC’s manner of billing group net-metering customers. The Commission ruled that WEC had not used the correct method for calculating the bills of net-metering customers whose net-metering systems are directly connected to the grid. The Commission deferred to a separate proceeding a determination of the amount of any bill adjustments to individual customers. In today’s Order, the Commission opens a proceeding to adjudicate any issues related to WEC customers who may have been billed incorrectly. This proceeding will also be used to address other potential issues related to WEC’s net-metering billing practices.

II. WEC REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS ORDER TO POTENTIALLY AFFECTED PERSONS

WEC is directed to provide a copy of this order and notice of scheduling conference to the group administrator of all group net-metering systems directly connected to the grid by April 1, 2022. By same date, WEC must file with the Commission a list of all persons that WEC has provided notice to. The Commission is providing notice of this proceeding to the Department of Public Service, WEC, and the intervenors in Case No. 21-1816-PET.¹

¹ The intervenors in Case No. 21-1816-PET are granted party status in this proceeding.

III. NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 10, a scheduling conference will be held before Jake Marren, Staff Attorney, on April 13, 2022, commencing at 1:30 P.M. via GoToMeeting conference². Participants and members of the public may access the scheduling conference online at <https://meet.goto.com/877295485> or call in using the following information: Phone Number: +1 (571) 317-3116; Access Code: 877-295-485. Participants may wish to download the GoToMeeting software application in advance of the workshop at <https://meet.goto.com/install>. Guidance on how to join the meeting and system requirements may be found at <https://www.gotomeeting.com/meeting/online-meeting-support>. The parties should come prepared to discuss an appropriate process and a schedule for this proceeding.

IV. INFORMATION REQUEST

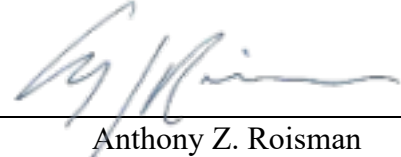
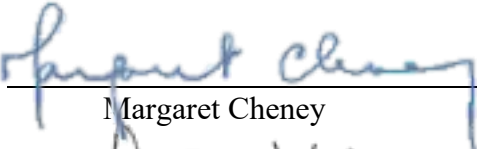
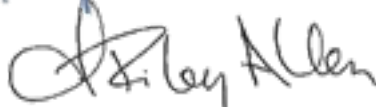
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SO ORDERED.

² Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§20 and 21, Washington Electric Cooperative will be responsible for court reporter costs incurred by the Commission as a result of this scheduling conference. Invoices for these costs will be mailed to the attorney(s) of record or the official representative(s) for Washington Electric Cooperative.

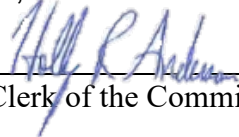
³ Commission Rule 5.125(E). The Commission has previously held that the filing of an amendment to a pre-existing net-metering system does not change its rates or its status as a pre-existing system. *Application of Bill & Lara Calfee for A Certificate of Pub. Good for A 27.2 Kw Photovoltaic Interconnected Grp. Net-Metered Elec. Power Sys. in Dorset, Vermont.*, Case No. 18-1474-NM, Order of 8/2/2018 (citing *Report to the Vermont General Assembly on the Net-Metering Program Pursuant to Act 99 of 2014*, Vermont Public Utility Commission, 31-32 (January 20, 2017)).

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 16th day of March, 2022.

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Anthony Z. Roisman) PUBLIC UTILITY
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 _____))
Margaret Cheney) COMMISSION
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J. Riley Allen) OF VERMONT
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OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 16, 2022

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)

PUC Case No. 22-0822-INV - SERVICE LIST

Parties:

Leslie A. Cadwell, Esq.
Legal Counselors & Advocates, PLC
P.O. Box 827
Castleton, VT 05735
lac@lac-lca.com

(for Kingsbury Companies LLC)

Louis Porter
Washington Electric Cooperative
PO Box 8
East Montpelier, VT 05651
louis.porter@wec.coop

(for Washington Electric Cooperative Inc.)

James Porter, Director of Public Advocacy
Vermont Department of Public Service
DPS-PA@vermont.gov

(for Vermont Department of Public Service)

Ronald A. Shems, Esq.
Tarrant, Gillies & Shems, LLP
P.O. Box 1440
Montpelier, VT 05601-1440
ron@tarrantgillies.com

(for Washington Electric Cooperative Inc.)