

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

CASE NUMBER 22-4100-TF

TAFIFF FILING OF WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A 14.19 PERCENT RATE INCREASE
EFFECTIVE ON A SERVICE-RENDERED BASIS COMMENCING
NOVEMBER 1, 2022

November 18, 2022
1:30 p.m.

Scheduling Conference held before the Vermont
Public Utility Commission via Go To Meeting on November
18, 2022, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

P R E S E N T

HEARING OFFICER: Andrea Poppiti

STAFF: Kyle Landis-Marinello

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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TARRANT, GILLIES & SHEMS

Appearing for Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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BY: RONALD SHEMS, ESQUIRE

1 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Good
2 afternoon. This is a scheduling conference in Case
3 Number 22-4100-TF. Let me just finish my
4 introduction here, but this is the Public Utility
5 Commission's investigation into the tariff filing of
6 Washington Electric Cooperative for a proposed change
7 in rates. The proposal would result in an overall
8 rate increase of 14.19 percent effective with bills
9 rendered on and after November 1, 2022. The
10 Commissioners are directly hearing this case and
11 Commissioner Allen is on the line today. Did you
12 want to add anything, Commissioner Allen? Okay.
13 Hearing nothing the -- so my name is Andrea Poppiti
14 and I'm assigned to be the lead staff on this case
15 and Kyle Landis-Marinello is also staffing the case
16 and he is on the call today as well.

17 So let's begin by taking appearances
18 from the parties starting with the Department.

19 MS. BRENNAN: Good afternoon. My name
20 is Erin Brennan. I represent the Vermont Department
21 of Public Service.

22 MR. SHEMS: I'm Ron Shems on behalf of
23 Washington Electric Cooperative.

24 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Great, thanks,
25 and there are no other folks on the call today.

1 Thank you for providing the schedule via ePUC
2 yesterday. I reviewed that schedule with the team
3 and we don't have any concerns except for the fact
4 that, you know, we need to keep in mind that the
5 seven-month deadline is June 1, and if the parties
6 file a litigation schedule they should make sure that
7 there's enough time for the Commission to issue a
8 final order in the case. So we would like to see a
9 month and wouldn't want to press it down to the less
10 than three weeks. We would prefer one month, and
11 then if for some reason, you know, the schedule can't
12 accommodate that, then we hope that WEC would
13 consider waiving the seven-month statutory deadline.
14 Any questions about that?

15 Okay. Hearing none so the public
16 hearing we have in the schedule is proposed for the
17 week of January 2nd, and January 2nd is a holiday so
18 I am looking at January 3rd or 4th and I'll need to
19 check with the Commissioners on that, but do the
20 folks see any trouble with January 3rd or 4th or
21 possibly 5th? I think I'll leave that open for -- to
22 check with the Commissioners.

23 MR. SHEMS: I'm not aware of any
24 problems. What I would like to do would be to --
25 typically we hold our public hearings in the church

1 next to the WEC headquarters in East Montpelier and I
2 just want to make sure that the basement of that
3 church is available.

4 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Okay.

5 MR. SHEMS: We can make arrangements.

6 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Okay. We have
7 been holding public hearings via Go To Meeting. If
8 the Commissioners want to continue with that approach
9 of Go To Meeting, are there any objections to having
10 it that way?

11 MR. SHEMS: No.

12 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: No objections.
13 Okay. So I will run that by them as an option that
14 you will be checking in case we want to do it in
15 person at the church.

16 MR. SHEMS: Does the Commission have a
17 preference as to Go To Meeting or in person?

18 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Well we're
19 still kind of in the process of figuring that out as
20 time is unrolling. So I would like to just run it by
21 them in this case and since we are looking at like
22 six weeks out here. So I don't know if Mr.
23 Landis-Marinello wants to add anything to that?

24 MR. LANDIS-MARINELLO: I'm trying to
25 think. We have had very few in-person public

1 hearings since the pandemic started. So my guess is
2 that we would be inclined to do a remote hearing. We
3 would want to at least have it be available for
4 people that call in remotely. So I guess Attorney
5 Shems is going to check in on the availability of the
6 church basement. You can also just check on if we
7 would be able to have a good internet connection
8 there as well.

9 MR. SHEMS: We would probably do it from
10 the WEC conference room if we need an internet
11 connection.

12 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Okay, and how
13 will WEC be providing notice of the public hearing to
14 customers?

15 MR. SHEMS: We can post it on our web
16 site. I don't know the billing cycle or the next
17 time Co-op Currents will go out. We can also publish
18 it in the newspaper.

19 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: We would like
20 to see -- the Commission likes to see some kind of
21 individual notice either through the newsletter or
22 through a bill notification or stuffer. Like
23 sometimes utilities can put the notice on the bill.
24 So if you could check with folks on that and get back
25 to the Clerk's Office on that and I will ask the

1 clerk to look at those -- whatever date we end up
2 selecting for the public hearing. So you can just be
3 in communication with the Clerk's Office on providing
4 notice and how that will be satisfied and she will
5 run it by us.

6 MR. SHEMS: Should I prepare a notice
7 form for the clerk?

8 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: That would be
9 helpful, yes. We would like to see that because
10 there's two notices. You know when this is first
11 filed there's the notice to customers that it's being
12 filed and here's the amount and then, you know, we
13 need to have a notice of the public hearing that's
14 more direct to the customers as well.

15 MR. SHEMS: And it's the public hearing
16 notice that I was --

17 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Yes. Yes.
18 Sometimes it's challenging to do, you know, the
19 double notices, but they like to see that direct to
20 the customers as possible. Okay. Let's see. Do you
21 have anything else, Mr. Landis-Marinello? No and is
22 there anything from other folks? Okay. So I will
23 run that by -- run the dates by the Commissioners and
24 if you could be in contact -- yes.

25 MR. SHEMS: So WEC when it sends out its

1 bills it does it in three batches over the course of
2 a month, and so if we could try to pick the dates as
3 quickly as possible so we can get the full December
4 billing cycle.

5 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Yes that
6 sounds good. I will get that moving today and
7 hopefully you can know by Monday -- by the end of the
8 day on Monday. That will be the goal.

9 MR. SHEMS: Great. Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER POPPITI: Feel free to
11 reach out to the Clerk's Office on Monday just to be
12 on top of that. That would be good. Okay. So if
13 there are no other issues, then we are adjourned for
14 today. Thank you everyone for being here and I hope
15 you have a nice weekend.

16 (Adjourned at 1:40 p.m.)
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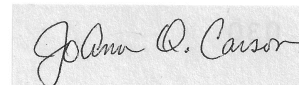
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JoAnn Q. Carson, do hereby certify that
I recorded by stenographic means the scheduling conference
re: Case Number 22-4100-TF on November 18, 2022,
beginning at 1:30 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing
testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter
reduced to typewriting, and the foregoing eight pages are
a transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the
evidence and the proceedings, to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related to
any of the parties thereto or their Counsel, and I am in
no way interested in the outcome of said cause.

Dated at Burlington, Vermont, this 18th day
of November, 2022.



JoAnn Q. Carson