

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 19-0302-INV

Investigation to establish an Energy Savings Account partnership pilot program, establish a methodology for evaluation, measurement, and verification of Self-Managed Energy Efficiency Program and Energy Savings Account projects, and review the Customer Credit Program	
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Order entered: 12/21/2023

ORDER APPROVING ESA PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSIONS

In a May 16, 2019, Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) established the Energy Savings Account (“ESA”) pilot program.¹ On December 20, 2019, the Commission made determinations with respect to evaluation, measurement, and verification of the Self-Managed Energy Efficiency Program (“SMEEP”) and ESA pilot programs.²

In Orders issued on March 4, 2020, July 23, 2021, and August 4, 2023, the Commission provided additional guidance on the implementation of the ESA pilot program.³

In 2022, Vermont Public Act 164 (“Act 164”) extended certain provisions of the ESA pilot program through December 31, 2023. Pursuant to Section (b)(5) of Act 164, the participants selected for the pilot may request an additional extension until December 31, 2026. The extension allows pilot participants to spend or contract to spend pilot funds accrued before January 1, 2024, but does not allow participants to accrue additional pilot funds. The Commission is required to consider requests and approve all reasonable extension requests.

The Commission required that ESA pilot program participants file requests for extensions no later than December 1, 2023.⁴ Six extension requests were filed by: Collins Aerospace; Ethan Allen Operations, Inc (“Ethan Allen”); Mack Molding Company (“Mack Molding”); Weidmann Electrical Technology, Inc. (“Weidmann”); WestRock Converting, LLC (“WestRock”); and Vail

¹ See *Order Re Energy Savings Account Pilot Program*, Case No. 19-0302-INV, Order of 5/16/19 at 27.

² See *Order Re Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification of the SMEEP and ESA Pilot Programs*, Case 19-0302-INV, Order of 12/20/19.

³ See *Order Re Implementation of the Energy Savings Account Pilot Program*, Case 19-0302-INV, Order of 3/4/20; *Order Addressing Implementation of ESA Pilot Program*, Case No. 19-0302-INV, Order of 7/23/21; and *Order Addressing ESA Pilot Program Extension*, Case 19-0302-INV, Order of 8/4/23.

⁴ See Order of 8/4/23.

Resorts. As required by the August 4, 2023, Order, the participants' extension requests included cover letters summarizing the additional efficiency projects expected to be implemented and the expected additional spending and savings associated with the additional projects. The extension requests from Collins Aerospace, Mack Molding, Weidmann, and WestRock included revised energy management plans to reflect the additional spending and savings.

Pursuant to Section (b)(5) of Act 164, the ESA pilot program may be extended until December 31, 2026, upon the reasonable request of a program participant. The six extension requests were timely filed and met the requirements in the August 4, 2023, Order. Accordingly, we grant the extension requests of Collins Aerospace, Ethan Allen, Mack Molding, Weidmann, WestRock, and Vail Resorts.

ESA pilot program participants granted an extension will be allowed to spend or contract to spend pilot funds accrued before January 1, 2024. As previously determined by the Commission, committed funds are those funds that are designated for a specific project or purpose and that are officially obligated through a contract, grant, loan, or other arrangement. Funds may be considered committed provided there is a written agreement of some type obligating payment.⁵ Accordingly, projects under the ESA pilot program may be completed after the December 31, 2026, program end date, as long as the project funds have been committed before the program end date.


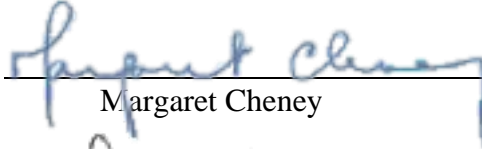
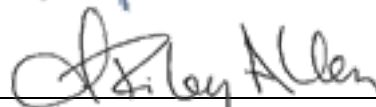
In addition, we clarify that our approval of the six extension requests is only for the projects identified in the participants' cover letters and energy management plans. Further, our approval is conditioned on the participants following the requirements of the ESA pilot program, including the requirements and additional guidance provided in Commission Orders.⁶ Finally, our approval is conditioned on the participants using only ESA pilot program funds on projects identified in their energy management plans. ESA pilot program projects are not eligible for other Efficiency Vermont incentives or programs, including incentives and rebates for the purchase of efficient products.

SO ORDERED.

⁵ See Order of 5/16/19 at 27; Order of 7/23/21 at 1; and Order of 8/4/23.

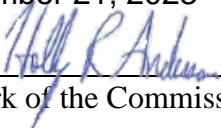
⁶ See Order of 5/16/19; Order of 12/20/19; Order of 3/4/20; Order of 7/23/21; and Order of 8/4/23.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 21st day of December, 2023.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: December 21, 2023

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)

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. 19-0302-INV - SERVICE LIST

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