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DATE: July 11, 20214
TO: Public Utility Commission
FROM: Michael Desrochers, Executive Director, Division of Fire Safety
SUBJECT: 21-3883-RULE – Proposed creation of Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule Concerning Energy Storage

9.402 Safety Standards for Energy Storage Facilities

The following standards are applicable to all energy storage facilities installed and operated in the State of Vermont:

- A. NFPA Standard 855 **and The Division of Fire Safety’s Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code for installations in “Public Buildings” as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2730)**
 - B. National Electrical Code **and The Division of Fire Safety’s Vermont Electrical Safety Rules for installations in “Public Buildings” as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2730 and 20 V.S.A. § 2900**
 - C. National Electrical Safety Code. **Suggest Deleting c the code is referenced in b above**
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Comment: The Division of Fire Safety regulates the permitting and issuance of construction permits for the construction of “Public Buildings” as defined in 20 V.S.A. Chapter 173 § 2730. The Division of Fire Safety also promulgates rules referred to as The Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code and the Vermont Electrical Safety Rules. Both rules provide amendments to the national standards. There may be circumstances where an energy storage system is not regulated by the Division of Fire Safety but if the system involves a structure meeting the definition of a public building, we will exert jurisdiction over the construction and wiring within our purview.

Although we currently do not adopt the NFPA 855 standard we are in the process of rulemaking, and we will be adopting NFPA 855 (2020 edition) with some amendments which are fire safety related and will not impact electrical distribution or your rules.

We adopt NFPA 70 National Electrical Code: We amend the NFPA 70 National Electrical Code through rules and these rules are referred to as the Vermont Electrical Safety.

END

