

State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission

Case No. 24-3023-INV

Public Utility Commission 2024 Investigation into Rates Related to Electric Vehicles	
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RESPONSES TO WORKSHOP TOPICS

The Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) requested information on several topics from the distribution utilities in its December 10, 2024 filing. A workshop was held on December 18, 2024, to discuss those topics. The Town of Stowe Electric Department (“SED”) now provides the following responses.

Q 1) Each utility’s policies for responding to customer requests for service upgrades that require upgrading utility-owned equipment (e.g., lines, transformers), including: a) Whether and when customers requesting service upgrades are or would be responsible for costs associated with upgrading utility-owned equipment when upgrades are necessary.

ANS: The Town of Stowe Electric Department (SED) has a service request form and internal operating procedure to manage customer requested service upgrades. Most service upgrades in SED’s territory are associated with net-metering projects, new construction, or the renovation of existing buildings. SED has not had to upgrade utility owned equipment as the result of new loads from EVs or EVSE. If a utility owned equipment upgrade is required for a customer-initiated service request, then the customer is responsible for the cost of the upgraded equipment.

SED will review whether an existing transformer that is underutilized on the system can be moved to accommodate the upgrade. In these situations, the existing transformer at the location of the customer-initiated service request will have to safely serve the needs of the address where the transformer is relocated from. If SED can relocate an existing transformer to accommodate the new load, then SED will charge the customer-initiated service request the cost required to relocate the transformer.

Q 1b) Whether the entity responsible for costs is or would be different if the upgrade purpose is to enable the installation of EVSE.

ANS: No. SED has the same procedure if the upgrade is related to EVSE loads.

Q 1c) Where your policies are documented (e.g., tariff, internal written procedures).

ANS: SED's policies are documented in our terms and conditions, the Vermont Utilities Service Requirements Manual, and internal procedures and direction from SED's Board of Commissioners.

Q 2) If your utility provides rebates for EVSE-related service upgrades, please explain if you have ever denied a rebate.

ANS: SED does not provide rebates for EVSE-related service upgrades. SED has a Tier III rebate for EVs and EVSE -we have not denied a valid rebate request for an EV or EVSE.

Q: If so, how many times and for what reason.

ANS: N/A

Q3) If customers are or would be responsible for upgrade costs, please explain whether your utility allocates the costs for shared infrastructure among customers.

ANS: Costs are allocated according to our line extension policy. For an EVSE-related upgrade, the customer responsible for the upgrade is responsible for the cost of the upgrade. SED has not required a transformer upgrade because of a customer-initiated service request for EVSE and has not had to allocate costs among customers. In 2025, SED is onboarding a new operations analytics platform and updating our system's power flow model, which can help the utility gather more information on the impact EVSE can have on transformers and load profiles.

Q4) The frequency and typical costs of EVSE-related service upgrades over the past three years, if you have performed any EVSE-related service upgrades.

ANS: The utility has not upgraded equipment to accommodate customer owned EVSE. SED has installed utility owned EVSE and those costs were paid for by the utility or the Town of Stowe.

Q5) Any ratepayer impacts that have or would result due to EVSE-related service upgrades.

ANS: SED has not completed any customer-initiated service upgrades for EVSE, so there is no direct ratepayer impact that we are aware of. SED manages EVSE infrastructure which is included in our cost of service. SED charges a fee for charging at SED owned stations. The impact to ratepayers from SED owned equipment is being reviewed in our cost of service and rate design study, which will be completed in 2025.

Dated at Stowe, Vermont this 3rd day of January, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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