

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

CASE NO. 24-3432-TF

TARIFF FILING OF VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A 4.84% RATE INCREASE
TO BE EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2025 --

February 10, 2025
7 p.m.

Via videoconference

Public Hearing held before the Vermont
Public Utility Commission, via videoconference, on
February 10, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m.

P R E S E N T

HEARING OFFICER: Jacob Davis, Utilities Analyst

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S P E A K E R SPage

Pat Sagui----- 4

1 HEARING OFFICER DAVIS: Good evening,
2 and thank you for being here. This is a Vermont
3 Public Utility Commission public hearing in Case No.
4 24-3432-TF concerning the tariff filing of Vermont
5 Electric Co-op requesting an overall 4.84 percent
6 increase in rates to be effective with service
7 rendered on and after January 1, 2025.

8 My name is Jacob Davis. I'm a
9 utilities analyst with the Vermont Public Utility
10 Commission, and I have been assigned as the hearing
11 officer for this case. Representatives from Vermont
12 Electric Co-op and the Vermont Department of Public
13 Service are present. The Department is an automatic
14 party in commission cases and is charged with
15 representing the public interest.

16 The purpose of tonight's hearing is to
17 provide an opportunity to hear input from the public
18 regarding Vermont Electric Co-op's tariff filing and
19 proposed rate increase. The comments received at
20 this hearing will become part of the public record in
21 these cases. You can also provide written comments
22 using the commission's online document management
23 system ePUC or by direct mail or email.

24 Contact information for the commission
25 is provided on our website at puc.vermont.gov. You

1 can also subscribe to these cases in ePUC, which
2 means you'll receive an email notification of any
3 commission order or filing made by a party in the
4 cases. More information about how to participate in
5 commission proceedings is available in the public
6 participation section of our website which is in the
7 puc.vermont.gov.

8 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed
9 by a court reporter. This transcript, along with all
10 other comments received by the commission in this
11 case, become part of the case's public file so the
12 commission members, staff, and parties in the cases
13 can consider the comments. This transcript will be
14 available in ePUC, and that is directly accessible at
15 ePUC.Vermont.gov or from links on the commission's
16 website.

17 Although public comments do not become
18 part of the formal evidence in these cases, they can
19 be helpful in raising new issues or perspectives that
20 the commission should consider. So we look forward
21 to hearing your input.

22 So at this time, I will take a public
23 comment. I believe we have a caller from the public.

24 MS. SAGUI: Is that me? Jacob, is that
25 me?

1 HEARING OFFICER DAVIS: Yes. Yes.

2 Sorry I was not looking. Yes. You're welcome to
3 comment.

4 MS. SAGUI: Okay. I am a residential
5 ratepayer with Vermont Electric Co-op. My name is
6 Pat Sagui, S as in Sam, A as in Apple, G as in
7 George, U-I. I live in Westfield. And I oppose that
8 this increase be equally applied to all members as a
9 flat fee across all categories. And the short of
10 that is on the one hand, Vermont utilities are giving
11 financial benefits to people who are using more
12 electricity, and there are those of us who choose to
13 use less, who live using less. Right now apparently
14 Vermont's around 560 kilowatts for the average
15 household. There is a lot of us that use like around
16 250.

17 And so I think it is unfair that if a
18 person chooses to not consume a finite resource, and
19 this technology, electricity, is completely dependent
20 upon finite resources; happy to answer that question
21 if no one knows what that refers to. So I'm
22 wondering if there shouldn't be a -- both an income
23 sensitivity and a use under the customer charge the
24 first 100 kilowatts, that's been at 100 kilowatts for
25 a long time, and it would be interesting to see how

1 long ago say 25 -- I think 25 years ago -- it was
2 still that first 100 kilowatts, and what the average
3 household use was then and what the average household
4 use is now. And that either that 100 kilowatts
5 should go up to 150 or 200, or that there is another
6 tier in there that reflects the contribution of
7 people who are choosing to not use as much
8 electricity because there are -- there are huge
9 problems, environmental problems, and using more than
10 our share as we who lives in the privileged first
11 world countries do, and that that is not reflected in
12 these processes.

13 And I'm wondering, and I'm proposing,
14 you know, maybe it's time for us to do that. I'm not
15 saying this in an adversarial way. It's not ours to
16 use. You know, there is a billion people in the
17 world that don't have any electricity and more than a
18 billion who would like to have more than the erratic
19 that they have. And so I don't know how much of that
20 larger picture needs to come into this particular
21 conversation.

22 And I apologize if I'm showing my
23 ignorance here, but I do feel that there needs to be
24 some accounting for the choice to not assume there is
25 an unlimited supply of something, that the best

1 number crunchers in the world have raised the flag,
2 that there isn't enough; there isn't enough copper,
3 there isn't enough lithium, there isn't enough
4 cobalt. And so I don't know. Somehow that seems
5 that should be getting figured in even if it's just
6 in a small way to our thinking when we are setting
7 rates.

8 So a couple different thoughts mixed
9 together there. Apologize. It's late in the day.
10 But thank you for letting me speak.

11 HEARING OFFICER DAVIS: Thank you very
12 much, Pat. We appreciate your comments. And as I
13 mentioned before, it will be in the transcript as
14 part of this case, so be available to the
15 commissioners and myself as well as the parties as we
16 review the case. Thank you, again.

17 MS. SAGUI: You're welcome.

18 HEARING OFFICER DAVIS: Are there any
19 other members of the public here that would like to
20 make a comment?

21 (No response).

22 HEARING OFFICER DAVIS: It looks like
23 not to me. Just making sure I'm reading my interface
24 correctly. I would like to wait until about 7:10
25 just to see if anyone shows up a little bit late. So

1 I will wait until that time, and then I will adjourn
2 the meeting if no one else arrives.

3 (Recess was taken.)

4 HEARING OFFICER DAVIS: Okay. Time is
5 now 7:10 p.m. So I will now adjourn the meeting as
6 no additional commenters have arrived. Thank you all
7 very much for your time, and have a wonderful
8 evening.

9 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
10 adjourned at 7:10 p.m..)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kim U. Sears, do hereby certify that I recorded by stenographic means the Public Hearing re: Case No. 24-3432-TF, via videoconference, on February 10, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting and the foregoing 8 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 Williston, Vermont, this 11th day of February, 2025.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim U. Sears". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

0 05402-0329 - 1:22 1 1 [2] 1:5, 3:7 10 [3] 1:6, 1:11, 9:5 100 [4] 5:24, 5:24, 6:2, 6:4 11th - 9:15 150 - 6:5 2 200 - 6:5 2025 [6] 1:5, 1:6, 1:11, 3:7, 9:6, 9:16 24-3432-TF [3] 1:2, 3:4, 9:5 25 [2] 6:1, 6:1 250 - 5:16 3 329 - 1:21 4 4 - 2:4 4.84 [2] 1:4, 3:5 5 560 - 5:14 7 7 [3] 1:7, 1:11, 9:6 7:10 [3] 7:24, 8:5, 8:10 8 8 - 9:9 802 - 1:22 863-6067 - 1:22 A ability - 9:11 accessible - 4:14 accounting - 6:24 across - 5:9 additional - 8:6 adjourn [2] 8:1, 8:5 adjourned - 8:10 adversarial - 6:15 Although - 4:17 analyst [2] 1:13, 3:9 apologize [2] 6:22, 7:9	apparently - 5:13 Apple - 5:6 applied - 5:8 appreciate - 7:12 APPROVAL - 1:4 arrived - 8:6 arrives - 8:2 assigned - 3:10 assume - 6:24 automatic - 3:13 available [3] 4:5, 4:14, 7:14 average [3] 5:14, 6:2, 6:3 B become [3] 3:20, 4:11, 4:17 beginning [2] 1:11, 9:6 benefits - 5:11 best [2] 6:25, 9:11 billion [2] 6:16, 6:18 bit - 7:25 BOX - 1:21 BURLINGTON - 1:22 C caller - 4:23 CAPITOL - 1:21 case [7] 1:2, 3:3, 3:11, 4:11, 7:14, 7:16, 9:5 case's - 4:11 cases [6] 3:14, 3:21, 4:1, 4:4, 4:12, 4:18 categories - 5:9 cause - 9:14 certify [3] 9:3, 9:7, 9:12 charge - 5:23 charged - 3:14 choice - 6:24 choose - 5:12 chooses - 5:18 choosing - 6:7 Co-op [3] 3:5, 3:12, 5:5 Co-op's - 3:18 cobalt - 7:4 comment [3] 4:23, 5:3, 7:20 commenters - 8:6 comments [6] 3:19, 3:21, 4:10, 4:13, 4:17, 7:12 commission [11] 1:1, 1:10, 3:3, 3:10, 3:14, 3:24, 4:3, 4:5, 4:10, 4:12, 4:20 commission's [2] 3:22, 4:15 commissioners - 7:15	completely - 5:19 concerning - 3:4 consider [2] 4:13, 4:20 consume - 5:18 Contact - 3:24 contribution - 6:6 conversation - 6:21 COOPERATIVE - 1:4 copper - 7:2 correctly - 7:24 counsel - 9:13 countries - 6:11 couple - 7:8 court [2] 1:21, 4:9 crunchers - 7:1 customer - 5:23 D Dated - 9:15 Davis [8] 1:13, 3:1, 3:8, 5:1, 7:11, 7:18, 7:22, 8:4 Department [2] 3:12, 3:13 dependent - 5:19 direct - 3:23 directly - 4:14 document - 3:22 E effective [2] 1:5, 3:6 either - 6:4 Electric [5] 1:4, 3:5, 3:12, 3:18, 5:5 electricity [4] 5:12, 5:19, 6:8, 6:17 email [3] 1:23, 3:23, 4:2 environmental - 6:9 ePUC [3] 3:23, 4:1, 4:14 ePUC.Vermont.gov - 4:15 equally - 5:8 erratic - 6:18 evening [2] 3:1, 8:8 evidence [2] 4:18, 9:11 F February [4] 1:6, 1:11, 9:5, 9:16 fee - 5:9 feel - 6:23 figured - 7:5 file - 4:11 filing [4] 1:4, 3:4, 3:18, 4:3	financial - 5:11 finite [2] 5:18, 5:20 flag - 7:1 flat - 5:9 foregoing [2] 9:7, 9:9 formal - 4:18 forward - 4:20 G George - 5:7 giving - 5:10 H happy - 5:20 hear - 3:17 hearing [15] 1:10, 1:13, 3:1, 3:3, 3:10, 3:16, 3:20, 4:8, 4:21, 5:1, 7:11, 7:18, 7:22, 8:4, 9:4 held - 1:10 helpful - 4:19 hereby - 9:3 household [3] 5:15, 6:3, 6:3 huge - 6:8 I Ignorance - 6:23 income - 5:22 increase [4] 1:4, 3:6, 3:19, 5:8 info@capitolcour - 1:23 information [2] 3:24, 4:4 input [2] 3:17, 4:21 interest - 3:15 interested - 9:14 interesting - 5:25 interface - 7:23 isn't [4] 7:2, 7:2, 7:3, 7:3 issues - 4:19 J Jacob [3] 1:13, 3:8, 4:24 January [2] 1:5, 3:7 K kilowatts [5] 5:14, 5:24, 5:24, 6:2, 6:4 Kim - 9:3 knows - 5:21 L larger - 6:20	less [2] 5:13, 5:13 letting - 7:10 links - 4:15 lithium - 7:3 lives - 6:10 looking - 5:2 looks - 7:22 M mail - 3:23 making - 7:23 management - 3:22 maybe - 6:14 means [2] 4:2, 9:4 meeting [2] 8:2, 8:5 members [3] 4:12, 5:8, 7:19 mentioned - 7:13 mixed - 7:8 myself - 7:15 N needs [2] 6:20, 6:23 notes - 9:10 notification - 4:2 O officer [8] 1:13, 3:1, 3:11, 5:1, 3:11, 7:18, 7:22, 8:4 online - 3:22 opportunity - 3:17 oppose - 5:7 order - 4:3 ours - 6:15 outcome - 9:14 overall - 3:5 P p.m [5] 1:7, 1:11, 8:5, 8:10, 9:6 P.O - 1:21 pages - 9:9 participate - 4:4 participation - 4:6 particular - 6:20 parties [3] 4:12, 7:15, 9:13 party [2] 3:14, 4:3 Pat [3] 2:4, 5:6, 7:12 percent - 3:5 perspectives - 4:19 present - 3:13 privileged - 6:10 problems [2] 6:9, 6:9 proceeding - 8:9 proceedings [2]	4:5, 9:11 processes - 6:12 proposed - 3:19 proposing - 6:13 provide [2] 3:17, 3:21 provided - 3:25 public [17] 1:1, 1:10, 1:10, 3:3, 3:3, 3:9, 3:12, 3:15, 3:17, 3:20, 4:5, 4:11, 4:17, 4:22, 4:23, 7:19, 9:4 puc.vermont.gov [2] 3:25, 4:7 purpose - 3:16 R raised - 7:1 raising - 4:19 rate [2] 1:4, 3:19 ratepayer - 5:5 rates [2] 3:6, 7:7 re - 9:4 reading - 7:23 receive - 4:2 received [2] 3:19, 4:10 Recess - 8:3 record - 3:20 recorded - 9:4 reduced - 9:9 refers - 5:21 reflected - 6:11 reflects - 6:6 regarding - 3:18 related - 9:12 rendered - 3:7 reporter - 4:9 REPORTERS - 1:21 Representatives - 3:11 representing - 3:15 requesting - 3:5 residential - 5:4 resource - 5:18 resources - 5:20 response - 7:21 review - 7:16 S Sagui [5] 2:4, 4:24, 5:4, 5:6, 7:17 Sam - 5:6 saying - 6:15 Sears - 9:3 section - 4:6 seems - 7:4 sensitivity - 5:23 service [2] 3:6, 3:13 setting - 7:6 share - 6:10 short - 5:9 shouldn't - 5:22
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