

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 25-0729-TF

Tariff filing of Town of Hardwick Electric Department requesting an overall rate increase of 13.24% effective with service rendered on or after June 1, 2025	
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VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION

On April 16, 2025, the Town of Hardwick Electric Department (“Hardwick” or “HED”) filed a request with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) for a 13.24% rate increase¹ (“Rate Change”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 225 and 226, for electric service rendered on or after the effective date of June 1, 2025. Based on a test year consisting of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, adjusted for known and measurable changes, HED predicts a revenue shortfall under its current rates. HED maintains that the main drivers of its Rate Change include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. A projected increase in labor expenses, including 2024 staffing changes, contractual wage increases, and an increase in cost for employee medical insurance premiums and benefits;
2. An increase in purchased power supply costs;
3. And, an adjustment of net-income to bring it to a level that reflects a Times Interest Earned Ratio (“TIER”) of 2.0.

Due to the magnitude of Hardwick’s proposed Rate Change, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225(b),

¹ An overall increase in the retail revenue requirement of \$937,233.

respectfully recommends that the Commission: (1) open an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of Hardwick's proposed Rate Change; and (2) set a date for an initial conference to set out a litigation schedule for this proceeding. Opening an investigation in this proceeding will provide the Commission and the Department with the opportunity to ensure, among other things, that Hardwick's estimates and forecasts used for ratemaking are fully updated and consistent with current market conditions prior to being approved.

Thank you, please contact me with any questions.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 16th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Alex Wing
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cc: ePUC Service List