

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-0719-TF

Tariff filing of Green Mountain Power Corporation for a proposed Zone 4 Energy Storage tariff to be effective with bills rendered on or after May 30, 2025	
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Order entered: 05/29/2025

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION AND SUSPENDING TARIFF, AND
NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 15, 2025, Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”) filed a proposed Zone 4 Energy Storage Program Service tariff (“Zone 4 Tariff”) with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to be effective with bills rendered on or after May 30, 2025. GMP proposes to offer energy system storage installations through the Zone 4 Tariff to residential customers in Zone 4, which consists of the EJ-G7 (Brattleboro), 56G1 (Wilmington), CH-G11 (Chester), and DM-G6 (Dummerston) circuits.¹ There are approximately 1,200 customers in Zone 4 on these four circuits, spanning approximately 34 rural towns.² GMP would own the systems, which would be leased to customers at no cost. Customer participation in the Zone 4 Tariff would be voluntary.

GMP seeks approval to deploy these residential battery energy storage systems in Zone 4 as part of its Zero Outages Initiative (“ZOI”), which was reviewed by the Commission in Case No. 23-3501-PET.³ GMP asserts that “residential storage is determined to be the least-cost alternative to provide resilient and reliable service in these Zone 4 areas.”⁴ GMP seeks approval of up to \$30 million in spending on energy storage systems for these four circuits.⁵

¹ “Zone 4” is the most remote portion of GMP’s circuits, consisting of single-phase lines feeding the fewest customers per mile. *See* Castonguay pf. at 17-18.

² Castonguay pf. at 19.

³ The Commission deferred further review of the energy storage system component of the ZOI until such time that GMP filed a tariff for approval. *See Petition of Green Mountain Power for approval of its zero outages initiative as a strategic opportunity pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 218d and GMP’s multi-year regulation plan*, Order of 10/18/24 at 28 (the “ZOI Order”).

⁴ Castonguay pf. at 18.

⁵ *Id.*

The Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) was notified of this tariff filing via the Commission’s electronic case management system, ePUC, at the time of the filing. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225, the Department must investigate the justness and reasonableness of a tariff filing immediately upon receipt of notice.

On May 6, 2025, after an initial review, Commission staff issued a request for information on the Zone 4 Tariff filing.

On May 12, 2025, GMP filed its response to the request for information.

On May 15, 2025, the Department recommended that the Commission open an investigation into the Zone 4 Tariff filing (“Department Recommendation”) to ensure that the proposal is just and reasonable. The Department states that it has conducted a preliminary review of the tariff filing and finds that an investigation is warranted to fully assess the details and potential impacts of the proposal. The Department asserts that “it is appropriate to undertake a thorough review that provides for closer scrutiny of what is a significant spending proposal with direct rate implications.”⁶ The Department also states that several of the questions reflected in the ZOI Order and in the information request issued in this case on May 6, 2025, warrant further evaluation.

II. DISCUSSION

Section 225 of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated requires the Commission to open an investigation into a tariff filing if the Department opposes the change in rates. In this case, the Department has recommended that we open an investigation into GMP’s Zone 4 Tariff filing. Accordingly, we are opening this investigation.

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 20 and 21, GMP will be responsible for court reporter costs incurred by the Commission during the course of this proceeding and billed back to GMP.

Members of the public are encouraged to file comments via e-PUC under case number 25-0719-TF at <https://epuc.vermont.gov>.

III. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

⁶ Department Recommendation at 3.


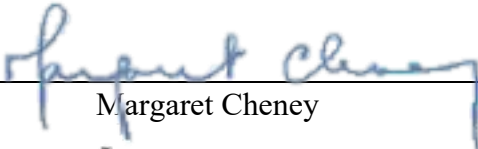

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 225 and 227(a), the Commission opens an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of Green Mountain Power Corporation's ("GMP") proposed Zone 4 Energy Storage Program Service tariff ("Zone 4 Tariff") as filed with the Commission on April 15, 2025.

2. The tariff is suspended and shall not become effective until final determination of these proceedings.

3. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 10 and 11(a)(2), a scheduling conference will be held before the Commission on June 11, 2025, beginning at 1:30 P.M., via Go To Meeting videoconference. Participants and members of the public may access the scheduling conference online at <https://meet.goto.com/292046949>, or call in by telephone using the following information: phonenumber: +1 (571) 317-3116 access code: 292-046-949. Participants may wish to download the GoToMeeting software application in advance of the hearing at <https://meet.goto.com/install>. Guidance on how to join the meeting and system requirements may be found at <https://www.gotomeeting.com/online-meeting-support>.


4. Consistent with Commission Rule 2.225(A), the Vermont Department of Public Service and GMP must jointly file a proposed procedural schedule for the investigation no later than three days before the scheduling conference. If the parties are unable to stipulate to a procedural schedule, then the Commission requests that the parties file separate schedules.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 29th day of May, 2025.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY)) COMMISSION) OF VERMONT
Edward McNamara)	
_____)	
 _____)) COMMISSION) OF VERMONT
Margaret Cheney)	
_____)	
 _____)) OF VERMONT
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: May 29, 2025

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)

PUC Case No. 25-0719-TF - SERVICE LIST

Parties:

Malachi T. Brennan
SRH Law PLLC
91 College Street
PO Box 545
Burlington, VT 05401
mbrennan@srhlaw.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)

Benjamin Civiletti
Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
benjamin.civiletti@vermont.gov

(for Vermont
Department of Public
Service)

Geoffrey Hand, Esq.
SRH Law PLLC
91 College Street
PO Box 545
Burlington, VT 05402
ghand@srhlaw.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)

Liz Miller
Green Mountain Power
163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, VT 05446
Liz.Miller@greenmountainpower.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)

Candace Morgan
Green Mountain Power
163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, VT 05446
candace.morgan@greenmountainpower.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)