

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

June 11, 2025
1:30 p.m.

Via videoconference

Scheduling Conference held before the
Vermont Public Utility Commission, via videoconference, on
June 11, 2025, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

P R E S E N T

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Edward McNamara, Chair
Margaret Cheney
J. Riley Allen

STAFF: Andrea Poppiti, Utilities Analyst
Dan Burke, Staff Attorney

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EMAIL: info@capitolcourtreporters.com

A P P E A R A N C E S

1
2 BENJAMIN CIVILETTI, ESQUIRE
3 Appearing for the VT Department of Public Service
4 112 State Street
5 Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
6 benjamin.civiletti@vermont.gov

7 SRH LAW
8 Appearing for Green Mountain Power Corp.
9 91 College Street, P.O. Box 545
10 Burlington, VT 05402-0545
11 BY: GEOFFREY H. HAND, ESQUIRE
12 MALACHI T. BRENNAN, ESQUIRE
13 ghand@srhlaw.com
14 mbrennan@srhlaw.com

15 Also present:
16 Josh Castonguay, GMP
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1 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Good afternoon. This
2 is a scheduling conference in Case No. 25-0719, which
3 involves the tariff filing of Green Mountain Power
4 Corporation for approval of its proposed Zone 4
5 Energy Storage tariff.

6 My name is Ed McNamara. I'm Chair of
7 the Vermont Public Utility Commission. And with me
8 today are Commissioners Margaret Cheney and Riley
9 Allen. Andrea Poppiti -- sorry -- and Dan Burke are
10 also in attendance for the commission.

11 So we are conducting the scheduling
12 conference using GoToMeeting platform. If a party or
13 participant intends to record today's hearing via
14 video or audio, please indicate this when you provide
15 your name for the court reporter.

16 I'll start by taking appearances.
17 Starting with the Department.

18 MR. CIVILETTI: Thank you. This is Ben
19 Civiletti for the Department.

20 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Green Mountain Power.

21 MR. HAND: Yes. Good afternoon. This
22 is Geoff Hand from SRH Law on behalf of GMP. With me
23 from our office is Malachi Brennan, and also Josh
24 Castonguay from GMP is joining to observe.

25 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Okay. Excuse me.

1 Thank you. I'm going to skip the piece about remote
2 procedures. Everyone here knows basically how we are
3 doing this.

4 Why don't we dive right into the
5 schedule. And I do appreciate -- and we saw that the
6 schedule was filed earlier this week. Just
7 confirming as well, Mr. Civiletti, Department is not
8 -- just does not object, but is in agreement with
9 the proposed schedule; is that correct?

10 MR. CIVILETTI: That's -- I think
11 that's right. I guess I would just say that I think
12 with respect to the public hearing, or a workshop
13 question, the Department is interested in maintaining
14 the public engagement that typically comes with a
15 tariff investigation. But we could talk about that
16 some more. Otherwise, fully in agreement.

17 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Why don't we actually
18 just jump right into that issue about the public
19 hearing. We were not inclined to hold a public
20 hearing or a workshop. Instead, what we were
21 thinking would be an evidentiary hearing sometime in
22 September. And then, obviously, opportunity to brief
23 -- for briefing schedule as well.

24 But rather than -- and understand that
25 tariff filings do not follow necessarily the same

1 process, and I do know that commission staff have
2 often used a workshop to try to get information. We
3 are likely to be sending discovery requests during
4 this proceeding. And we are interested in the
5 evidentiary hearing at the end to sort of wrap up all
6 the issues. And depending on how the hearing goes,
7 obviously people will have the opportunity for
8 briefing, and we may request that folks provide
9 briefing on specific issues as well. That's the
10 general thinking.

11 And I do want to circle back, though,
12 Mr. Civiletti, you had suggested that you're
13 interested in furthering public engagement or
14 something to that effect. Apologies, I don't have
15 the exact wording. But here to hear your thoughts.

16 MR. CIVILETTI: Thank you. Yeah. I
17 suppose our thinking on the public hearing was simply
18 that it's typically done as a matter of course. It's
19 useful for, you know, allowing the public to -- the
20 ratepayers I guess specifically -- to ask any
21 questions they may have of GMP and just kind of
22 provide some general information. I don't -- I think
23 that the commission's proposal sounds perfectly fine.

24 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thank you. Yeah. I
25 will also note that -- two different aspects. One,

1 anybody who wants can file a public comment at any
2 point. And I would also say if the Department wants
3 to do its own outreach in order to inform its
4 comments in this, it obviously has that ability as
5 well. And we are seeing this not so much in the --
6 to try to -- we are not trying to squelch any public
7 participation in this. Just thinking about the zero
8 outage initiative public hearing and some of the
9 other public hearings we have had, and we are trying
10 to be efficient in everyone's use of time. So.

11 MR. CIVILETTI: Understood.

12 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Great.

13 MR. HAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 That approach sounds like a good one to us as well.
15 Obviously, welcome any public comments on the
16 proposal, and we would, as we have normally done,
17 follow up with individual commenters if they come in.
18 And I think setting a date for a hearing -- we
19 considered that ourselves in our proposal, but it
20 makes sense to us to have something at the back end.
21 And that maybe we reach a point where that's not
22 necessary, but certainly having it reserved makes
23 sense.

24 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Okay. Just working
25 through the proposed schedule a little bit, a little

1 bit more detail here. So Department serves discovery
2 on GMP June 20th. We have no concerns with that.
3 And then the response deadline, obviously no concern.

4 We have talked about the public hearing
5 or workshop. Intervention deadline, July 11th, seems
6 reasonable as well as 5 days after the deadline for
7 intervention.

8 Department serving second round of
9 discovery on GMP, if necessary. This is -- this
10 would likely be the time that the commission would be
11 serving discovery as well on GMP on this issue. And
12 then Department file direct testimony. This is a
13 case where, at least from my perspective, regardless
14 of whether the Department and GMP ultimately agree
15 with GMP's proposed tariff, it would be good to
16 understand the Department's thinking through prefiled
17 testimony as to why the support, in particular.

18 So I'm simply flagging that because in
19 past years there has been simply a black box
20 settlement that's presented to the commission. And
21 that would be our strong -- our strong preference is
22 to not be in that situation. So -- and then so we
23 would suggest an evidentiary hearing sometime in mid
24 September.

25 Does that impact the schedule in terms

1 of, for example, GMP, would you be interested in
2 discovery on the Department's testimony knowing that
3 there was a hearing in mid September?

4 MR. HAND: I don't know -- I can't say
5 for certain if we need discovery. I think if we are
6 looking at mid September, you know, preserving some
7 opportunity for rebuttal, if needed, to narrow issues
8 may make sense. And but I expect we can work that
9 out with the Department for, you know, some sort of
10 quick turnaround on that in advance of any hearing in
11 mid September.

12 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Great. Thank you.
13 Also just a reminder we are -- we do read discovery
14 questions as they come in. So please file the
15 discovery questions in ePUC, and the narrative
16 discovery responses in ePUC as well.

17 So anything that I am forgetting?
18 Looking around, particularly Andrea and Dan, anything
19 I'm forgetting?

20 MS. POPPITI: Just that if there are
21 any motions to intervene granted, that the parties
22 will need to revisit the schedule to allow for
23 discovery and opportunity there. So we will just
24 make a note of that in the scheduling conference
25 order.

1 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thank you for that
2 reminder. Yup. That's great.

3 MR. HAND: And there may be time,
4 depending on when they intervene, to accommodate them
5 within the scope of the schedule, but certainly
6 understand the point.

7 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Great. All right.
8 Anything else we should talk about today?

9 MR. CIVILETTI: Nothing further, I
10 think, for us. Thank you.

11 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Great. Well thank you
12 all very much. And looking forward to this
13 proceeding. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
15 adjourned at 1:40 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, Kim U. Sears, do hereby certify that I recorded by stenographic means the Scheduling Conference re: Case No. 25-0719-TF, via videoconference, on June 11, 2025, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting and the foregoing 9 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 12th day of June, 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 background.

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