

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 26-1420-TF

Tariff filing of Barton Village, Inc. Electric Department for an overall rate increase of 14.73% effective with service rendered on and after September 1, 2026	
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Order entered: 09/01/2026

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION AND NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves a request filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) for approval of an increase in the Barton Village, Inc. Electric Department’s (“Barton Electric”) rates. In this order, we open an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of a 14.73% rate increase proposed by Barton Electric.

On July 16, 2026, Barton Electric filed revised rate schedules and tariff documents with the Commission reflecting a proposed 14.73% increase in its rates.¹ The tariff changes are proposed to take effect on a service-rendered basis commencing September 1, 2026.

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

On August 18, 2026, the Department recommended that the Commission open an investigation into Barton Electric’s tariff filing.

II. DISCUSSION

The Commission must determine whether Barton Electric’s proposed change in rates is just and reasonable. 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

¹ The proposed 14.73% rate increase is based on an increase in annual revenues of \$526,831.

rates. In this case, the Department has recommended that we open an investigation into Barton Electric's tariff filing. Accordingly, we are opening this investigation.

Section 226(b) of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated provides that the Commission may not suspend the effectiveness of a tariff of a municipal or cooperative utility and that such a utility may implement a proposed rate increase pending a Commission investigation provided that the utility "refund revenues collected in excess of those which are finally determined to be just and reasonable." Section 226(b) further provides that "[a]ny increase in the rates of a municipality or cooperative shall be implemented by means of an identical percentage increase to each class or division of ratepayers." In light of this statutory language, Barton Electric may implement the tariff by means of an identical 14.73% surcharge to each class of ratepayers, subject to the requirement that it refund any amounts collected that are in excess of the amount finally determined to be just and reasonable by the Commission.

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

III. ORDER

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

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 225 and 227(a), the Commission opens an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of the Barton Village, Inc. Electric Department's ("Barton Electric") proposed tariff revisions as filed with the Commission on July 16, 2026.

2. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 226(b), until a final determination is made in this proceeding, increased rates may be implemented by means of an identical 14.73% surcharge to each class of Barton Electric's ratepayers under the tariffs previously approved by the Commission. Any revenues collected in excess of those that are finally determined to be just and reasonable must be refunded to Barton Electric's ratepayers.

3. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8, Andrea Poppiti is appointed to serve as the hearing officer to conduct the proceedings in this matter.

4. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 10 and 11(a)(2), a scheduling conference will be held on September 15, 2026, at 1:30 P.M. via Teams videoconference.

Participants and members of the public [may access the scheduling conference online at this link](#) on September 15, 2026:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/272892611018620?p=sFQRaLkiAtwQdUB0VT>

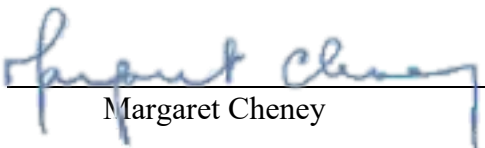
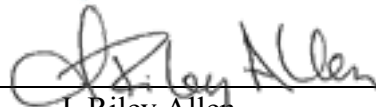
Participants and members of the public may also use the following information to attend the scheduling conference: Meeting ID: 272 892 611 018 620; Passcode: Xk3e6Zz9 or call in by telephone using the following information: [phone number & conference id](#): +1 802-828-7667,,766793077#

Participants may wish to review [guidance on how to join the meeting and system requirements](#) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/join-a-meeting-in-microsoft-teams-1613bb53-f3fa-431e-85a9-d6a91e3468c9>).

5. Consistent with Commission Rule 2.225(A), the Vermont Department of Public Service and Barton Electric must jointly file a proposed procedural schedule for the investigation no later than three days before the scheduling conference.² If the parties are unable to stipulate to a procedural schedule, then the Commission requests that the parties file separate schedules.

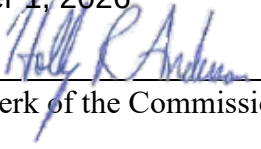
² 30 V.S.A. § 227(a) states: “Except when the company consents to waive the seven-month requirement, if the Commission fails to make its determination within the time periods set by this subsection, the changed rate schedules filed by the company shall become effective and final.” The hearing officer is directed to adhere to the seven-month requirement specified in the statute, as consistent with Commission precedent. Accordingly, if a proposed schedule extends beyond seven months from the date of today’s order, Barton Electric should be prepared to waive the seven-month requirement for a period of time that would accommodate the proposed schedule. Additionally, parties should include six weeks at the end of the schedule to allow adequate time for the hearing officer to issue a proposal for decision and to receive comments and requests for oral argument from the parties before the Commission makes a final determination.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 1st day of September, 2026.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: September 1, 2026

Attest: 

Clerk of the Commission

PUC Case No. 26-1420-TF - SERVICE LIST

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