

From: [PUC - Clerk](#)
To: ["Sandra Paquin"](#)
Subject: VT Public Utility Commission RE: Case #26-0096-TF-Formal Public Comment and Objection — GMP Proposed 7.5% Rate Increase
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 3:44:00 PM

Hello Ms. Paquin,

The VT Public Utility Commission ("Commission") has received your below email public comment regarding Case #26-0096-TF.

We will upload your email as a public comment into the public comment section of Case #26-0096-TF, but I will note that the Commission approved GMP's rate request on August 28, 2026. The Final Order approving the base rate increase can be viewed in the case in our ePUC system (<https://epuc.vermont.gov/>) by searching for Case no. 26-0096-TF and viewing Commission Issued Documents.

Thank you,

Holly R. Anderson (she/her)
Clerk of the Vermont Public Utility Commission
ePUCSystem Administrator

Vermont Public Utility Commission
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From: Sandra Paquin <paquin4186@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:39 PM
To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>

Subject: Formal Public Comment and Objection — GMP Proposed 7.5% Rate Increase, Case No. 26-0096-TF

You don't often get email from paquin4186@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Public Utility Commission,

I am writing to formally submit my objection to Green Mountain Power's proposed 7.5% electric rate increase in Case No. 26-0096-TF, which is proposed to take effect October 1, 2026.

I understand that operating an electric utility involves substantial costs and that infrastructure must be maintained and improved. However, I am asking the Commission to seriously consider what these continued increases are doing to the people who are actually paying these bills.

I am a single woman and a homeowner who is already living paycheck to paycheck despite earning a six-figure salary and working more than 80 hours a week. I am not someone who is careless with money or unwilling to make sacrifices. I have healthcare expenses, taxes, a mortgage, and the normal costs associated with maintaining a home. I already pay for health insurance that I struggle to actually use because the deductible is so high.

My electric bill is already regularly exceeding \$500 per month. Another increase is not something I can simply absorb by "cutting back." I have already reduced my electricity usage as much as I reasonably can. I have even resorted to using tea-light candles in rooms of my home in an effort to reduce electricity consumption.

I genuinely do not know what more an ordinary person is expected to sacrifice.

At some point, telling customers to simply use less electricity stops being a realistic solution. People need heat, refrigeration, lighting, hot water, appliances, and the ability to live safely in their own homes. When a homeowner earning six figures, working extraordinary hours, and making significant efforts to reduce consumption is still struggling to afford basic electricity, I believe that should be a warning sign that deserves serious

consideration.

A \$500+ monthly electric bill is already an enormous financial burden for me. The prospect of that cost continuing to increase makes me question whether I can realistically remain in Vermont. I bought a home here because I believed homeownership and working hard were supposed to provide some measure of stability. Instead, I am finding myself increasingly unable to afford the basic cost of maintaining that home.

There is another issue that I hope the Commission and Vermont policymakers will consider: the effect that Vermont's rising cost of living can have on its healthcare workforce.

My professional specialty is dialysis and home dialysis care. It is an extremely specialized field, and there are very few people in the region who provide the particular healthcare services that I do. I am one of only approximately eight people in New Hampshire and Vermont who can provide this particular service. If people like me reach the point where we cannot afford to live and work in Vermont, the consequences extend beyond our individual household budgets.

Vermont already faces significant healthcare workforce challenges. Losing highly specialized healthcare professionals because the cost of living has become unsustainable would compound those problems. I would sincerely prefer to remain here and continue providing care to patients in this region, but I cannot ignore the financial reality of what it costs to live here.

I am therefore asking the Commission to carefully scrutinize the proposed 7.5% increase and the underlying costs and assumptions supporting it. I ask that the Commission consider not only whether the proposed increase can be justified from the utility's perspective, but also whether it is economically sustainable for the customers who are expected to pay it.

I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. Carefully scrutinize the necessity and magnitude of the proposed 7.5% increase;
2. Consider the cumulative effect of electric rate increases on residential customers, particularly those already experiencing severe affordability pressures;

3. Examine whether there are alternatives that could reduce the burden placed on residential customers;
4. Consider the broader economic consequences of electricity costs on Vermont's ability to retain homeowners, workers, and specialized healthcare professionals; and
5. Give meaningful weight to the testimony of ordinary customers who are reaching the limit of what they can financially absorb.

I am not asking for special treatment. I am asking for consideration of whether the current trajectory is sustainable.

I work more than 80 hours a week. I earn a six-figure income. I own my home. I actively try to conserve electricity. And I am still struggling to keep up with the cost of simply living and keeping the lights on.

That should concern all of us.

I respectfully ask that this letter be entered into the record and considered as part of the Commission's review of Case No. 26-0096-TF.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandra Paquin
Springfield VT