

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 18-2660-INV

Investigation into promoting the ownership and use of electric vehicles in the State of Vermont	
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Order entered: 08/08/2018

ORDER RE SCOPE AND SCHEDULE

On July 9, 2018, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) initiated this investigation in response to Section 25 of Act 158 (H.917) of the 2017-2018 Vermont legislative session. Consistent with Section 25 of Act 158, this investigation is aimed at identifying and removing barriers to increased ownership and usage of electric vehicles (“EVs”) in Vermont.

Participant Comments

In our July 9 order initiating this investigation, we established July 30, 2018, as the deadline for participants to file their comments on the scope and schedule for this investigation. Comments were filed by the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”), the City of Burlington Electric Department (“BED”) and the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (“VPPSA”),¹ Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“VEC”), the Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”), ChargePoint, Inc., and Greenlots.

The Department proposes an investigation broken into three phases. The first phase would address what the Department refers to as “foundational issues” including questions of jurisdiction over non-utility-owned public charging stations, oversight of rates and prices charged by such stations, and the role of electric distribution utilities in deploying and operating public charging stations. The second and third phases would address the balance of topics set forth in Section 25 of Act 158.

VEC, CLF, and Greenlots are generally supportive of the Department’s proposal but each advocates for moving certain issues into the foundational issues group and in some cases moving issues from phase three to phase two and vice versa. VEC specifically urged that the Commission not immediately pursue regulatory changes related to the resale of electricity at

¹ BED and VPPSA represent that Green Mountain Power Corporation and Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. concur with the recommendations of BED and VPPSA.

charging stations owned and operated by non-utilities. Rather, VEC recommends that Commission or other agency jurisdiction over charging stations owned by both utilities and non-utilities be addressed simultaneously.

BED and VPPSA recommend a five-track working group process to address the issues identified in Section 25 of Act 158.

ChargePoint largely deferred to the Commission's discretion in establishing a scope and schedule for this proceeding but urged the Commission to develop a full understanding of the range of business models for EV charging, barriers to deployment of charging stations, and incentives to ensure sustainable growth in Vermont's EV market.

Workshop

At this time, the Commission is scheduling a first workshop to be held on October 1, 2018, from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Susan M. Hudson Hearing Room on the third floor of the People's United Bank Building at 112 State Street in Montpelier. The Office of the Clerk will issue a separate notice confirming the date, time, and location of the workshop.

Topics that will be addressed at the workshop are: (1) the current state of technology regarding both EV charging stations and EVs; (2) changes to the existing technology of both EV charging stations and EVs that are reasonably expected in the coming year; (3) barriers to the widespread deployment of EV charging stations; (4) barriers to the widespread ownership and use of EVs in Vermont; (5) strategies for the removal of any barriers identified in topics (3) and (4); and (6) the appropriate scope, if any, of Commission or other state agency jurisdiction over EV charging stations owned and operated by both utility and non-utility entities.

Many of the participant comments on scope suggested that the question of barriers to the deployment of charging stations and use of EVs be delayed until a later phase in this investigation. The Commission considered those recommendations but decided not to adopt them. The Commission believes that identifying and understanding any barriers at the outset of this proceeding will guide much of the discussion that follows. The Commission also believes that understanding the current state of technology and advances that are reasonably expected to occur in the near term is crucial to identifying both barriers and solutions to support increased EV use in Vermont. Lastly, the Commission agrees that jurisdiction over EV charging services,

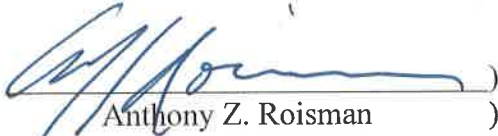
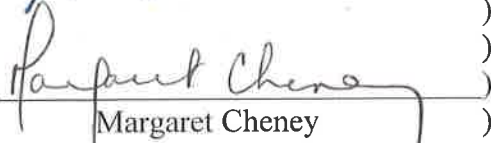

including both utility and non-utility providers, is an important topic to discuss early in this proceeding in the event it is determined legislative action in the upcoming session is appropriate.

Participants who wish to make a presentation on any of these topics at the workshop must submit their request to the Commission no later than close of business on September 17, 2018. Each request must identify the topic of the proposed presentation and the amount of time being requested for the presentation, keeping in mind that there will likely be questions from others in attendance, including Commissioners and Commission staff. Participants are encouraged to coordinate their presentations so as to avoid unnecessary repetition.

Following the workshop, the Commission will establish a deadline for further comments on scope and schedule for the balance of this investigation.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 8th day of August, 2018.

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Anthony Z. Roisman)	PUBLIC UTILITY
)	
)	
Margaret Cheney)	COMMISSION
)	
)	
Sarah Hofmann)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: August 8, 2018

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. 18-2660-INV - SERVICE LIST

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