

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-2022-INV

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| Determination of 2021 Energy Efficiency Charge Rates | |
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Order entered: 11/13/2020

ORDER DETERMINING 2021 NATURAL GAS ENERGY EFFICIENCY CHARGE RATES

I. INTRODUCTION

The Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) has determined the energy efficiency charge (“EEC”) rates for natural gas customers to take effect with bills rendered on and after February 1, 2021. The Commission’s decision regarding the natural gas EEC is based upon the calculations provided by Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (“Vermont Gas”).¹ No comments or questions were filed regarding the proposed natural gas EEC rates.

II. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Commission Rule 5.300 sets forth a formula for calculating the natural gas EEC rates each year. This formula accounts for under- and over-collections in previous years.² Over-collections in a previous year are credited to customers and reduce the amount that needs to be collected in the coming year through the EEC. Under-collections have the opposite effect. Vermont Gas collected approximately \$3,593 less than it anticipated in 2020. Consistent with the Commission’s rule, VGS proposes to collect the 2020 under-collection from customers. Vermont Gas’s EEC calculations also reflect a credit to ratepayers of \$177,840 that was carried forward from previous years.³ This has the effect of reducing the total amount of money that must be collected through the EEC in 2021.

The budgets for Vermont Gas’s energy efficiency programs in 2021 are larger than in 2020, which would suggest a higher EEC would be necessary to collect adequate revenue. However, the Commission has approved a financing mechanism that Vermont Gas will employ

¹ Vermont Gas filed its proposed EEC pursuant to Commission Rule 5.300.

² PUC Rule 5.304(D).

³ *Vermont Department of Public Service request for determination of reallocation of unspent 2015-2017 Energy Efficiency Charge funds*, Case No. 20-2241-PET, Order of 9/24/20.

beginning in 2021 that will mitigate the need to increase the EEC in 2021. Because there is uncertainty about the timing of the financing and therefore the amount of carrying costs, Vermont Gas has included only the projected principal amounts in its calculations, with carrying costs to be recovered in 2022. The net effect of Vermont Gas's calculations is a 3.1% increase in EEC rates for all customer classes.

We conclude that Vermont Gas's filing is consistent with the requirements of Commission Rule 5.300. The 2021 natural gas EEC rates shall be as set forth in the table below.

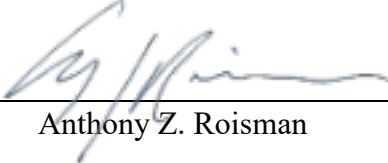
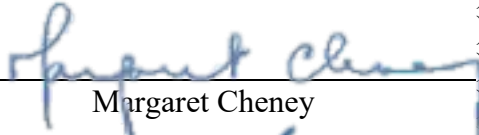
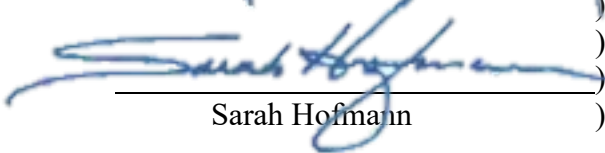
| 2021 Natural Gas EEC | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | Rate per Ccf |
| Residential | 0.0495 |
| Residential Low Income | 0.0396 |
| G1 Class | 0.0468 |
| G2 Class | 0.0363 |
| G3 Class | 0.0365 |
| G4 Class | 0.0281 |
| Interruptible | 0.0203 |

The EEC rates shall be implemented with bills rendered on and after February 1, 2021. Vermont Gas shall provide notice to customers of the EEC rates, pursuant to Commission Rule 5.308(A). The Commission finds that there is no just reason for delay in entering this order; therefore, this order is the final judgement in regard to the 2021 EEC rates for natural gas customers.⁴

SO ORDERED.

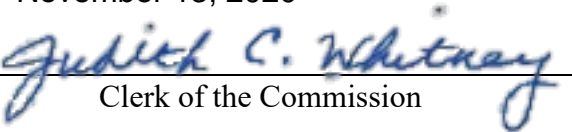
⁴ Commission Rule 2.103 and Vt. R. Civ. P. 54.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 13th day of November, 2020.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: November 13, 2020

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)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.

PUC Case No. 20-2022-INV - SERVICE LIST

Carolyn Browne Anderson, Esq.
Green Mountain Power Corporation
2152 Post Road
Rutland, VT 05702
carolyn.anderson@greenmountainpower.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)

Reginald Beliveau, Jr.
Swanton Village, Inc. Electric Department
P.O. Box 279
120 First Street
Swanton, VT 05488
rbeliveau@swanton.net

(for Swanton Village,
Inc. Electric Department)

Erin C. Bennett, Esq.
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
erin.bennett@vermont.gov

(for Vermont
Department of Public
Service)

Meredith Birkett
Village of Johnson Water & Light Department
P.O. Box 603
Johnson, VT 05656
vojmanager@townofjohnson.com

(for Village of Johnson
Water & Light
Department)

Victoria J. Brown, Esq.
Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.
42 Wescom Road
Johnson, VT 05656
vbrown@vermontelectric.coop

(for Vermont Electric
Cooperative Inc.)

Ellen Burt
Town of Stowe Electric Department
P.O.Box 190
Stowe, VT 05672
eburt@stoweelectric.com

(for Town of Stowe
Electric Department)

William F. Ellis
McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan
271 South Union Street
Burlington, VT 05401
wellis@mcneilvt.com

(for City of Burlington
Electric Department)

Jonathan Elwell
Village of Enosburg Falls Water & Light
42 Village Drive
Enosburg Falls, VT 05450
jelwell@enosburg.net

(for Village of Enosburg
Falls Water & Light
Department Inc.)

Elijah D Emerson, Esq.
Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC
PO Box 1309
Montpelier, VT 05601
eemerson@primmer.com

(for Village of Enosburg
Falls Water & Light
Department Inc.) (for
Town of Hardwick
Electric Department)
(for Village of Johnson
Water & Light
Department) (for Town
of Northfield Electric
Department)
(for Vermont Public
Power Supply Authority)

Steven R Farman
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
5195 Waterbury-Stowe rd
Waterbury Center, VT 05766
sfarman@vppsa.com

James Gibbons
City of Burlington Electric Department
585 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
jgibbons@burlingtonelectric.com

(for City of Burlington
Electric Department)

Jeremy D. Hoff
Stackpole & French
P.O. Box 819
Stowe, VT 05672
jhoff@stackpolefrench.com

(for Town of Stowe
Electric Department)

Bill Humphrey
Village of Lyndonville Electric Department
P.O. Box 167
20 Park Avenue
Lyndonville, VT 05851
bhumphrey@lyndonvilleelectric.com

(for Village of
Lyndonville Electric
Department)

Penny Jones
Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department
857 Elmore Street
Morrisville, VT 05661
pjones@mwlvt.com

(for Village of
Morrisville Water &
Light Department)

Katelyn Kran
Barton Village Inc. Electric Department
kkran@bartonvt.com

(for Barton Village Inc.
Electric Department)

Michael Lazorchak
Town of Stowe Electric Department
PO Box 190
Stowe, VT 05672
mlazorchak@stoweelectric.com

(for Town of Stowe
Electric Department)

Megan Ludwig, Esq.
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
megan.ludwig@vermont.gov

(for Vermont
Department of Public
Service)

James Massie
Efficiency Vermont-Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
20 Winooski Falls Way
5th Floor
Winooski, VT 05404
jmassie@veic.org

(for Efficiency Vermont
- Vermont Energy
Investment Corporation)

Mari McClure
Green Mountain Power Corporation
163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, VT 05446
ceo@greenmountainpower.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)

Joseph McKearin
Green Mountain Power Corporation
2152 Post Road
Rutland, VT 05701
Joseph.McKearin@greenmountainpower.com

(for Green Mountain
Power Corporation)

Pamela Moore
Village of Jacksonville Electric Company
P.O. Box 169
Jacksonville, VT 05342
pmoore@jacksonvilleelectric.net

(for Village of
Jacksonville Electric
Company)

John Morley
Village of Orleans Electric Department
Municipal Building
One Memorial Square
Orleans, VT 05860
jmorley@villageoforleansvt.org

(for Village of Orleans
Electric Department)

Ken Nolan
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
P.O. Box 126
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
knolan@vppsa.com

(for Vermont Public
Power Supply Authority)

Jessica Patterson
Town of Hardwick Electric Department
PO Box 516
Hardwick, VT 05843
jess@hardwickelectric.com

(for Town of Hardwick
Electric Department)

Thomas Petraska
Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department
9 Pond Street
Ludlow, VT 05149
tpetraska@tds.net

(for Village of Ludlow
Electric Light
Department)

Jill Pfenning
Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
85 Swift Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
jpfenning@vermontgas.com

(for Vermont Gas
Systems, Inc.)

Patricia Richards
Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 8
East Montpelier, VT 05651
patty.richards@wec.coop

(for Washington Electric
Cooperative Inc.)

Carol Robertson
Village of Hyde Park Electric Department
P.O. Box 400
Hyde Park, VT 05655
carol.robertson@hydeparkvt.com

(for Village of Hyde
Park Electric
Department)

Jeffrey Schulz
Town of Northfield Electric Department
51 South Main Street
Northfield, VT 05663
jschulz@northfield.vt.us

(for Town of Northfield
Electric Department)

Ronald A. Shems, Esq.
Tarrant, Gillies, Richardson & Shems
P.O. Box 1440
Montpelier, VT 05601-1440
rshems@tarrantgillies.com

(for Washington Electric
Cooperative Inc.)

Eileen Simollardes
Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
85 Swift Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
esimollardes@vermontgas.com

(for Vermont Gas
Systems, Inc.)

Darren Springer
City of Burlington Electric Department
585 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
dspringer@burlingtonelectric.com

(for City of Burlington
Electric Department)

Emily Stebbins-Wheelock
City of Burlington Electric Department
585 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
estebbins-wheelock@burlingtonelectric.com

(for City of Burlington
Electric Department)

Michael Sullivan
Town of Hardwick Electric Department
P.O. Box 516
Hardwick, VT 05843
msullivan@hardwickelectric.com

(for Town of Hardwick
Electric Department)

Rebecca Towne
Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.
42 Wescom Road
Johnson, VT 05656
rtowne@vermontelectric.coop

(for Vermont Electric
Cooperative Inc.)

Matthew J. Walker
Efficiency Vermont-Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
20 Winooski Falls Way
5th Floor
Winooski, VT 05404
mjwalker@veic.org

(for Efficiency Vermont
- Vermont Energy
Investment Corporation)

David C. Westman
Efficiency Vermont - Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
20 Winooski Falls Way
5th Floor
Winooski, VT 05404
dwestman@veic.org

(for Efficiency Vermont
- Vermont Energy
Investment Corporation)