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STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

CASE NUMBER 20-3563-PET

PETITION OF THE TOWN OF STOWE ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2020
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

February 16, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Scheduling Conference held before the Vermont
Public Utility Commission via GoToMeeting video
conference on February 16, 2021, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

P R E S E N T

Hearing Officer: John Gerhard, Staff Attorney

CAPITOL COURT REPORTERS, INC.
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BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05402-0329
(802/800)863-6067
Email: info@capitolcourtreporters.com

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ERIC B. GUZMAN, ESQUIRE
Appearing for the VT Department of Public Service
112 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

STACKPOLE & FRENCH LAW OFFICES
Appearing for Town of Stowe Electric Department
PO Box 819
Stowe, VT 05672
BY: MICHAEL J. HALL, ESQUIRE

MICHAEL LAZORCHAK
Town of Stowe Electric Department
PO Box 190
Stowe, VT 05672

HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Good afternoon.

1 This is a scheduling conference in Case Number
2 20-3563-PET, petition of the Town of Stowe Electric
3 Department for approval of its 2020 Integrated Resource
4 Plan. My name is John Gerhard. I'm a hearing officer
5 for the Vermont Public Utility Commission. I've been
6 assigned to this case.

7 If a party or participant intends on recording the
8 conference via video or audio, please let me know this,
9 so when you provide your name to the reporter, just so
10 we're aware that that's happening in this new age of
11 Covid and Zoom. There are some peculiar rules, or
12 maybe "peculiar" is the wrong word, unique rules that
13 we're working under during the Covid pandemic. The
14 Commission is limiting in-person contact during these
15 times, and so, as a result, the parties have agreed to
16 conduct this conference remotely.

17 I just want to take a moment to confirm. Are both
18 parties in this case, are you comfortable, and do you
19 agree to having this hearing remotely? If you have an
20 objection to this remote hearing, please let me know
21 now.

22 ATTORNEY HALL: No objection on behalf of
23 Stowe.

24 ATTORNEY GUZMAN: No objection from the
25 Department of Public Service.

1 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay, fantastic.
2 So what we plan to do going forward is we're going to
3 use the GoToMeeting platform. During this conference,
4 we'll use some special procedures that are uniquely
5 related to using a web-based platform. I'm just going
6 to read them now for you so that you have the benefit
7 of knowing what they are. Parties can raise objections
8 to these procedures either now or at any point during
9 the conference. In addition to formal objections,
10 parties may also raise concerns at any time if the
11 platform isn't performing as you expect it to perform
12 or if you have difficulties using the platform.

13 The representatives in this case should keep their
14 cameras on during the entire conference, except during
15 breaks. It's helpful for me and for the other parties
16 to be able to see you. I will not be muting anyone's
17 microphone. So, if you are not speaking, it probably
18 would be helpful if you would self-mute, because that
19 will cut down on the background noise.

20 Each time that you begin talking, if you could,
21 please introduce yourself. I know this is a little bit
22 of a hassle, but I think it will help the court
23 reporter recognize who, at that particular time, is
24 speaking, especially for those of you who do not have
25 video capabilities. So please just make sure, when you

1 start to talk, you identify yourselves.

2 If, at any time during these hearings, now or at
3 any point in the future, your internet ends or cuts out
4 or something happens that you can't participate in the
5 conference, we ask you to call either the clerk's
6 office, we ask you to try and rejoin the GoToMeeting,
7 or there's usually a conference number with the
8 GoToMeeting notice that you can call, and for those
9 measures we'll get you back onto the conference so that
10 you're not in any way prejudiced by not being able to
11 participate.

12 If you do get cut off, when we come back online, I
13 will summarize what's happened. You will have the
14 ability to, if there are concerns or if there are
15 questions or misunderstandings, we will go back, excuse
16 me, and review that material so that you are fully
17 informed about what's happening for your client during
18 this case. Also, if, if you notice that another party
19 is having problems, please bring that to my attention.
20 I will do everything I can to correct those problems
21 during the course of the hearing.

22 Does anybody have any questions about those kind
23 of technical or procedural issues that might arise
24 because we're using GoToMeeting as a vehicle for this
25 hearing? Okay.

1 ATTORNEY HALL: No questions, no concerns.

2 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay. Hearing no
3 concerns then, I have a couple of details that we need
4 to deal with that we spoke about before we went on the
5 record. The first issue is that there's a pro hac vice
6 motion that is pending in front of the Commission, and
7 I have agreed to resolve that pro hac vice motion. I
8 expect to be able to do that in the next day or two,
9 and so parties should expect to see a hearing officer
10 order issued on that matter certainly before Friday.

11 The second piece of business that we have to deal
12 with is that the utility still needs to issue some form
13 of notice that will give customers notice of the
14 proceeding that will give customers notice of when the
15 time is that they can intervene in the proceeding or
16 when they have questions that they can submit during
17 the proceeding.

18 And then, third, we also need to schedule workshop
19 dates so that we can have workshops in this proceeding
20 for, both for the Commission, for the Department, for
21 the utility, and for customers. My understanding at
22 this point is that the parties are going to work
23 together to develop that schedule and they are going to
24 file it with the Commission and they're going to come
25 to an agreement before filing it with the Commission.

1 So I won't get a, you know, a tentative schedule; I
2 will get a schedule that is supported by both of the
3 parties that I can then rule on. Is that accurate?

4 ATTORNEY HALL: Yes, on behalf of Stowe, it
5 is.

6 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay. I can't
7 recall if we discussed when you thought you would have
8 that to me. Would you prefer that I leave that date
9 open, or would you prefer that I have a date certain so
10 that we can all be looking at the same date? I leave
11 that up to the parties. I have no preference.

12 ATTORNEY GUZMAN: This is Eric Guzman from
13 the Department speaking. I believe that a, a schedule
14 between the parties could be resolved by this Friday,
15 unless, unless Stowe believes we need additional time.

16 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay. Then what
17 I'm going to do is I'm going to set a date for next
18 Tuesday, just to be conservative, and, that way, if you
19 file it prior to the deadline, great. If you need a
20 few extra days, you have them. Is that acceptable to
21 the parties?

22 ATTORNEY HALL: On behalf of Stowe, this is
23 Michael Hall. Yes, it is.

24 ATTORNEY GUZMAN: This is Eric. Yes, it is.

25 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay, excellent.

1 So this is my favorite part of all these hearings,
2 because I get to display my idiocy. What have I
3 forgotten, anything? Is there something that's out
4 there that you are concerned about or I should be
5 concerned about that we have not yet dealt with in the
6 hearing?

7 ATTORNEY GUZMAN: This is Eric Guzman
8 speaking. I do not believe so.

9 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay.

10 ATTORNEY HALL: And this is Michael Hall on
11 behalf of Stowe. I don't believe there's anything else
12 outstanding either.

13 HEARING OFFICER GERHARD: Okay, excellent.
14 It's a banner day. Unless any of the parties have
15 anything else they want to discuss, I think we are
16 ready to conclude this hearing. I'll give you three
17 seconds to pipe up if you need to say anything.
18 Otherwise, we're going to close down. Okay, excellent.
19 You folks have a wonderful evening, and I will look
20 forward to seeing something from both of the parties
21 together sometime early next week. Take care.

22 ATTORNEY HALL: Thank you very much.

23 ATTORNEY GUZMAN: Thank you.

24 (Whereupon at 1:50 p.m. the hearing was adjourned.)

25 C E R T I F I C A T E

1 I, Sunnie Donath, RMR, do hereby certify that
2 I recorded by stenographic means the Scheduling
3 Conference Re: PETITION OF the Town of Stowe Electric
4 Department for approval of its 2020 Integrated Resource
5 Plan, at the Susan M. Hudson Hearing Room, Third Floor,
6 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont, on February 16,
7 2021, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

8 I further certify that the foregoing testimony was
9 taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to
10 typewriting and the foregoing 8 pages are a transcript
11 of the stenographic notes taken by me of the evidence
12 and the proceedings to the best of my ability.

13 I further certify that I am not related to any of
14 the parties thereto or their counsel, and I am in no
15 way interested in the outcome of said cause.

16 Dated at Westminster, Vermont, this 19th day of
17 February, 2021.

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//Sunnie Donath, RMR