

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 22-2954-PET

Petition of Vermont Department of Public Service to open an EEU Demand Resource Plan proceeding for the 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 performance periods	
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Order entered: 08/18/2022

ORDER OPENING ENERGY EFFICIENCY UTILITY DEMAND RESOURCES PLAN PROCEEDING

I. INTRODUCTION

On July 27, 2022, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed a petition requesting that the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) initiate an energy efficiency utility Demand Resources Plan proceeding for the 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 performance periods. A Demand Resources Plan is a set of year-by-year budgets, savings goals, and performance metrics for Vermont’s electricity, natural gas, and thermal-energy and process fuels energy efficiency programs. The Demand Resources Plan process will result in a set of short- and long-term assumptions pursuant to which Vermont’s energy efficiency programs will operate. The Commission has appointed three entities to serve as energy efficiency utilities: Efficiency Vermont, the City of Burlington Electric Department (“BED”), and Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (“VGS”).¹

In this Order, the Commission opens a proceeding pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 209(d) and (e) to establish Demand Resources Plans for Vermont’s three appointed energy efficiency utilities. In the most recent Demand Resources Plan proceeding, in Case No. 19-3272-PET, the Commission approved Demand Resources Plans for Efficiency Vermont, BED, and VGS that established budgets, savings goals, and performance metrics for the 2021-2023 and 2024-2026 performance periods. We now initiate a Demand Resources Plan proceeding that will address

¹ Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (“VEIC”) serves as Efficiency Vermont, which provides energy efficiency services throughout the state except for in BED’s service territory. BED provides energy efficiency services to its customers. VGS provides natural gas energy efficiency services to its customers.

budgets, savings goals, and performance metrics for the 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 performance periods.

II. DISCUSSION

In Case No. 18-2867-INV, the Commission determined to substantially change the Demand Resources Plan process.² Significantly, the Commission determined that, unlike in past proceedings, Demand Resources Plan proceedings, with the exception of thermal-energy and process fuels plans, may now be conducted as contested cases.³ The Commission also determined that the following entities would automatically be granted party status in Demand Resources Plan proceedings: the Department, the energy efficiency utilities, Vermont electric distribution utilities, the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, and the Vermont Electric Power Company (“VELCO”). In addition, the Commission concluded that it is appropriate to maintain a three-year performance period while establishing six-year Demand Resources Plans that will cover two consecutive performance periods, with the opportunity for mid-term updates to the Plans.

The first step of the process is for the Department to file its statewide energy efficiency potential study. On July 27, 2022, the Department filed initial draft results of its most recent energy efficiency potential study.⁴ The Department states that it will consider comments and questions regarding the draft results before it finalizes the potential study by the end of August 2022. The Department requests that the Commission establish deadlines for (1) stakeholders to file written comments and questions and to request a workshop regarding the draft potential study results, and (2) if no workshop is requested, for the Department to file written responses to any comments or questions.

Following this first phase of the proceeding focused on the energy efficiency potential study, the Department recommends that the Commission convene a scheduling conference to discuss a schedule for the remainder of the proceeding and to discuss taking administrative

² *Investigation into the regulation of energy efficiency utilities in the State of Vermont*, Case No. 18-2867-INV, Order of 8/8/19.

³ Under the Vermont Administrative Procedures Act, “contested case” means “a proceeding, including but not restricted to rate-making and licensing, in which the legal rights, duties, or privileges of a party are required by law to be determined by an agency after an opportunity for hearing.” 3 V.S.A. § 801(b)(2).

⁴ Exhibit DPS-1.

notice of the record in Case No. 19-3272-PET for the purpose of considering updates to the Demand Resources Plans approved in that case.

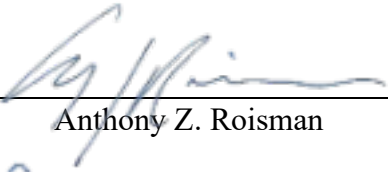
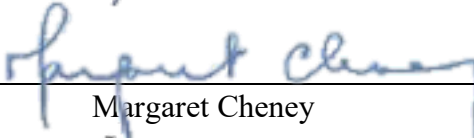
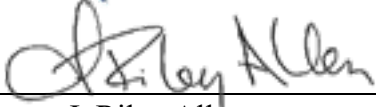
III. SCHEDULE FOR FIRST PHASE

We establish August 26, 2022, as the deadline for stakeholders to file written comments, questions, and requests for a workshop regarding the draft potential study results. If a workshop is not requested by a stakeholder or the Commission, the deadline for the Department to file written responses shall be September 9, 2022.

We grant Commission staff the authority to set schedule or make changes to the schedule in this proceeding.

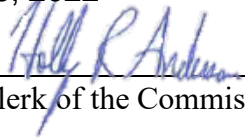
SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 18th day of August, 2022.

)	
_____ Anthony Z. Roisman)	PUBLIC UTILITY
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)	
_____ Margaret Cheney)	COMMISSION
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)	
_____ J. Riley Allen)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: August 18, 2022

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. 22-2954-PET - SERVICE LIST

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