

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0203-INV

Investigation into the establishment of reduced rates for low-income residential ratepayers of Vermont electric utilities	
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Order entered: 10/04/2022

ORDER REQUESTING COMMENT ON MODEL

This proceeding concerns an investigation by the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) into the establishment of reduced electric rates for low-income residential ratepayers of Vermont electric utilities. On April 26, 2022, the Commission issued an order in this proceeding requesting that the electric utilities provide certain information so the Commission could better understand the potential bill impacts for each utility of providing various forms of low-income bill assistance. On June 10, 2022, the Commission received responses to its information requests.

The Commission is still considering whether to require utilities to provide low-income bill assistance. Toward that end, the Commission has used the information it received from the utilities on June 10, 2022, to create the model included with this Order. The model can be used to estimate the average bill impacts for customers of each utility providing a certain percent discount (e.g., 25%) for a certain percentage of low-income customers who choose to participate in the program (e.g., 30%) funded by the utility’s ratepayers. Users should review the “Instructions” tab for information on how to adjust assumptions and sensitivity test results.

The Commission requests that the utilities review the model’s data, assumptions, methodology, and results, as well as the Scenario included with this Order and provide comments by October 14, 2022. Data were entered by hand from PDF files, so we request that participants please check these numbers and calculations for accuracy. Participants are also invited to provide modified or alternative modeling if they wish.

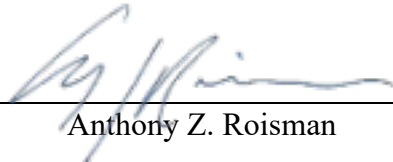
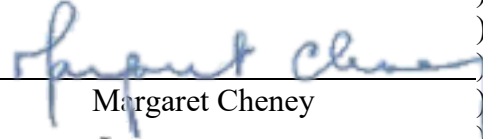
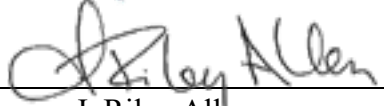
The model does not account for the administrative costs of each utility implementing a low-income program. Therefore, the Commission also requests that the utilities provide their best estimates of what their administrative costs would be to implement a program similar to Green Mountain Power Corporation’s Energy Assistance Program, and requests that VPPSA

comment on whether it could provide administrative support for its member utilities, and if so, the estimated cost.¹

SO ORDERED.


¹ For Green Mountain Power Corporation's Energy Assistance Program, the Vermont Department for Children and Families accepts program applications, determines applicant eligibility, and communicates enrollment status to the utility. Green Mountain Power Corporation administers all customer billing for the program.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 4th day of October, 2022.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: October 4, 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)

Scenario: All utilities create a program like GMP's EAP

1. 30% participation rate
2. 25% of the bill covered for participating customers
3. Range representing +/- 10% from baseline of eligible customers

Utility	\$ Bill Impact range		% Bill impact range	
	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
GMP	\$1.33	\$1.62	1.25%	1.52%
VEC	\$1.34	\$1.64	1.29%	1.58%
WEC	\$1.61	\$1.97	1.51%	1.85%
BED	\$1.41	\$1.72	2.17%	2.65%
Stowe	\$1.52	\$1.86	1.40%	1.71%
Hyde Park	\$1.26	\$1.54	1.23%	1.50%
Barton	\$1.85	\$2.27	2.11%	2.58%
Enosburg	\$1.74	\$2.13	1.41%	1.73%
Hardwick	\$1.07	\$1.31	1.26%	1.54%
Jacksonville	\$1.28	\$1.56	1.67%	2.04%
Johnson	\$1.92	\$2.34	2.04%	2.49%
Ludlow	\$0.94	\$1.15	1.50%	1.84%
Lyndonville	\$1.42	\$1.74	1.69%	2.07%
Morrisville	\$1.10	\$1.35	1.37%	1.67%
Northfield	\$1.06	\$1.30	1.45%	1.77%
Orleans	\$1.75	\$2.13	2.33%	2.85%
Swanton	\$1.19	\$1.46	1.36%	1.66%
Statewide pooling	\$1.36	\$1.67	1.34%	1.63%
Statewide minus GMP	\$1.43	\$1.75	1.56%	1.91%

PUC Case No. 20-0203-INV - SERVICE LIST

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