

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 22-4100-TF

Tariff filing of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. for approval of a 14.19% rate increase effective on a service-rendered basis commencing November 1, 2022

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION**

On September 15, 2022, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“WEC”) filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) its request for a 14.19% rate increase (“Rate Change”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 225 and 226, with an effective date of November 1, 2022. According to WEC, the requested Rate Change is necessary to provide WEC with the revenues required to deliver reliable and efficient electric service to its customers. In its supporting documentation, WEC maintains that the main drivers of its Rate Change include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. An increase in WEC’s power supply costs, including costs of purchased power and power production;
2. A raise in WEC’s TIER benchmark to a ratio of at least 2.0; and
3. A decrease in sales and an increase in costs from additional net-metering facilities, increased labor and health care, and administrative costs.

Due to the magnitude of WEC’s proposed Rate Change and other significant macroeconomic uncertainties, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225(b), respectfully recommends that the Commission (1) open an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of WEC’s proposed Rate Change; and (2) set a date for an initial conference to set out a litigation schedule for this proceeding. Opening an investigation in this proceeding will provide the Commission and the Department with the

opportunity to ensure, among other things, that WEC's estimates and forecasts used for ratemaking are fully updated and consistent with current market conditions prior to being approved.

Thank you, and please contact me with any questions.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 17th day of October, 2022.

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

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