

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	
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Order entered: 12/02/2022

SCHEDULING CONFERENCE ORDER

On September 16, 2022, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“WEC”) filed revised tariffs with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) reflecting a 14.19% rate increase, effective with service rendered on or after November 1, 2022.

On October 27, 2022, the Commission issued an order opening an investigation into the tariff filing.

On November 18, 2022, the Commission held a scheduling conference in this matter. Appearances were entered by Erin C. Brennan, Esq., Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”), and Ronald Shems, Tarrant, Gillies & Shems, on behalf of WEC.

Before the scheduling conference, the parties filed a proposed procedural schedule. The Commission has modified the schedule to include an opportunity for discovery and Commission questions on the Department’s testimony as well as responses. Accordingly, the deadline for filing a stipulation or proposed litigation schedule is shifted to two weeks later than the parties originally proposed. The Commission has also delayed the deadline for any intervenors to file direct testimony. The schedule is adopted as follows:

Date	Event
December 6, 2022	Deadline for discovery to be served on WEC
December 30, 2022	Deadline for WEC to file responses to discovery
January 4, 2023	Information Session to be hosted by the Department at 6:45 PM to be followed by Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M.

January 9, 2023	Deadline for motions to intervene
January 16, 2023	Deadline for responses to motions to intervene
January 24, 2023	Deadline for Department to file direct testimony
February 3, 2023	Deadline for discovery and Commission questions to be served on the Department
February 17, 2023	Deadline for Department to file responses to discovery and Commission questions
February 24, 2023	Deadline for parties to file stipulation or request for hearing and proposed litigation schedule, including opportunities for Intervenors, if any, to file testimony; for WEC, the Department, and Intervenors to file rebuttal testimony; and for all parties to seek discovery on all testimony

As discussed at the scheduling conference, if there is a protracted litigation schedule beyond February 24, 2023, it may be necessary for WEC to waive the seven-month statutory deadline for decision.¹

If motions for summary judgment or motions for dismissal are filed in this case, then, consistent with Vermont Rule of Civil Procedure 7(b)(4) and unless different deadlines are established by the Commission, (1) responses shall be due 30 days after the motion is filed; and (2) replies to any responses shall be due 14 days after the responses are filed. For any other motions, consistent with that same rule and unless different deadlines are established by the Commission, (1) responses shall be due 14 days after the motion is filed; and (2) replies to any responses shall be due 14 days after the responses are filed. Surreplies may only be filed with permission from the Commission.

Parties are reminded that documents submitted in .pdf format should be in an “unlocked” format, i.e., searchable and extractable, rather than in an image format.

¹ Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 227, the statutory deadline for the Commission’s decision for tariff filings is seven months after the Commission opens an investigation. In this case, the statutory deadline is May 30, 2023.

Members of the public interested in this proceeding may participate by submitting public comments or by intervening as a formal party to the case. Members of the public may also simply monitor the Commission's actions in a specific case. Guidance on how to monitor, comment on, or actively participate in Commission proceedings is available in the document "Public Participation and Intervention in Proceedings before the Public Utility Commission," which is available on the Commission's website at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/public-participation-and-intervention-proceedings-public-utility-commission>.


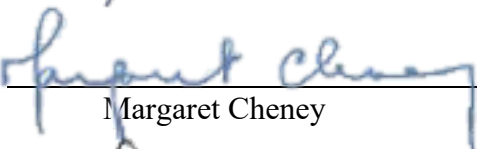

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 20 and 21, the Petitioner will be responsible for court reporter costs incurred by the Commission during the course of this proceeding and billed back to the Petitioner.

Please note that the Commission's revised procedural rules (Commission Rule 2.000) will take effect on January 18, 2023. The new version of Commission Rule 2.000 will apply to this case after that date.² The new version of Commission Rule 2.000 is available in ePUC at: <http://epuc.vermont.gov/?q=downloadfile/622823/151626>.

SO ORDERED.


² Under Commission Rule 2.107, a party may request a waiver of the application of a portion of the new Commission Rule 2.000 to this case.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 2nd day of December, 2022.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: December 2, 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. 22-4100-TF - SERVICE LIST

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