



Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 8, 75 Vermont Route 14N
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651

Telephone: 802-223-5245; Fax: 802-223-6780
www.washingtonelectric.coop

Ms. Holly Anderson, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

3 March 2023

RE: 20-0203 ; Order of 3 February 2023 requesting information

Dear Ms. Anderson:

WEC responds to the Order of 3 February requesting information of WEC's program and plan for income eligible WEC households. The Order cites to earlier filings regarding electric rate discounts similar to the GMP discount paid by other customers, and more recently to the ACRE program managed by the DPS.

With Vermont Electric Co-op's initiative WEC has partnered with VEC to distribute its share of an ACRE award of \$2,693,667. The offer to both co-ops' income eligible households is based on VEC's Community Solar project. Ultimately the target number of households was forced to decrease by 50% due to DPS mandated changes to the original proposed program design.

The expected WEC participant target households is 141. The offer is a \$45/month discount for 60 months for a total discount of \$2,700 per household. The offer is based on the household having received Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) services based on income determination by Capstone.

WEC is working with Capstone and their GreenSavingsSmart team to enroll eligible households. Eligibility is based on 185% Federal Poverty Level. Internally WEC's Member Service Representatives will be identifying potential eligible households; enrollment is via an online portal managed by VEC which will also accommodate WEC enrollment.

Regarding the Inflation Reduction Act and income eligible tax benefits WEC is aware of the potential of the I.R.A. WEC believes the rules for implementing the I.R.A. continue to evolve. As we learn how to apply the tax benefits for programs to support all households WEC intends to promote these options to our membership generally.

WEC's primary on-going income eligible Tier III initiative supporting income eligible households has been and will continue to be through our partnership with Capstone. Annually WEC purchases thermal savings delivered to our income eligible households through the WAP program. In 2023 the budget for income eligible households participating in Tier III savings represents 36% of the Button Up budget.

Separate from our ACRE initiative with VEC, WEC has been awarded a VLITE grant for an initiative called ReWire. ReWire is an intentional process to support income eligible households where the existing electric service entrance is inadequate to support additional beneficial electrification such as heat pumps and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) or EV charging equipment. ReWire is a pending project, adversely impacted over the past year by supply chain issues including for transformers needed to handle additional continuous loads such as EVSE. WEC expects to see ReWire begin in Q2/2023.

Please contact me if there are questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William Powell, C.E.M.

Director, Products and Services

Filed by ePUC