



## Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

8 May 2023

RE: 20-0203 ; compliance filing responsive to PUC Order of 25 April 2023

Dear Ms. Anderson:

WEC herein provides the requested information responsive to the Hearing Officer's Order of 25 April 2023 in regards to WEC's portion of the ACRE program developed by Vermont Electric Cooperative which will be provided to income eligible WEC member households.

1. *Assuming the percentage of low-income members in WEC's service territory is the statewide average of 31% what percentage of low-income members in WEC's service territory will be able to participate in WEC's ACRE program?*

WEC does not accept the premise the DPS uses of a 31% population estimate as income eligible for reasons which we have previously described.

For the purposes of this response we will use the proffered estimate, as follows. The year end 2022 membership population for WEC was 11,231, of which 11,231 are served under the residential tariff (94%). Thirty one percent of 11,231 = 3,482 households in 41 towns.

Although the final participation for the WEC/VEC ACRE program is not confirmed we are assuming 223 member households, or 6.4% of the income eligible WEC member households will be able to receive the ACRE benefit (discount) for five years.

2. *When does WEC anticipate that its ACRE program will begin providing benefits to participants?*

WEC is partnering with VEC on a common ACRE program, with each co-op supporting a similar five year discount offer and income eligibility standard. With the support provided by VEC the launch of WEC's ACRE program ("Renewable Electric Discount") will begin shortly.

VEC as lead in developing the overall program design is still in a final stage of negotiation with the Department of Public Service (DPS). Once DPS confirms the final design WEC will begin to notify eligible member households of the Renewable Electric Discount and enroll the members.

3. *Does WEC have plans to adopt any other new rate assistance programs or other types of program to benefit its low income members now, in the foreseeable future or when the ACRE program ends?*

Yes. In addition to income eligible Tier 3 incentives, WEC has two income eligible programs to subsidize costs for eligible households.

**WRAP**

WEC intends to file a tariff to enable the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) through the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA), to allow income eligible households access to on the bill repayment for eligible energy improvements.

**ReWire**

Supported by a \$100,000 grant award from the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) WEC is partnering with Capstone to subsidize the electric service entrance and transformer for a select population of WEC households which have already been served for weatherization services (by Capstone). Although the grant was awarded in 2022 this project has been delayed due to the on-going supply chain issue which in this case impacts transformer availability. As the supply chain issue moderates WEC stands ready to engage with Capstone as Project Manager to bring a small number of WEC households into the project, and upgrade the existing service entrance/transformer to accommodate heat pumps and other additional electric demands.

Please contact me if there are questions.



William Powell

Director, Products & Services

Filed by ePUC.