

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 22-4100-TF

Tariff filing of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. for a 14.19% rate increase effective with service-rendered November 1, 2022	
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Order entered: 08/14/2023

**ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING**

This case concerns the tariff filing of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“WEC”) for a 14.19% rate increase effective with service-rendered November 1, 2022.

On May 19, 2023, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) approved a 12.83% rate increase for WEC. The Commission directed WEC to file compliance tariffs reflecting the final approved rate increase.

On June 1, 2023, WEC filed compliance tariffs.

On June 21, 2023, WEC filed two revised tariffs—one for street lighting (“Policy Bulletin No. 38 L”) and one for its net-metering tariff (“Policy Bulletin No. 38 NM”). For the street lighting tariff, WEC applied the approved 12.83% rate increase to energy usage rates and to fixture installation, fixture equipment, and pole installation costs. For the net-metering tariff, WEC applied the approved 12.83% rate increase to the account set-up fee, monthly maintenance fee, and meter equipment cost.

On June 23, 2023, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments on WEC’s compliance tariffs. After reviewing WEC’s June 21 filing, the Department states that it did not identify any issues with WEC’s compliance tariffs.

On June 25, 2023, Stephen Bushman filed a public comment recommending that changes to WEC’s net-metering tariff should be accomplished through a stand-alone net-metering tariff filing. Mr. Bushman notes that WEC’s net-metering tariff was not submitted with WEC’s original filing or at any time before the final order.

On July 3, 2023, the Hearing Officer issued an information request seeking comments on the ratemaking basis for applying the approved rate increase to the fixture installation, fixture equipment, and pole installation costs for the street lighting tariff and for the account set up fee,

monthly account maintenance fee, and meter equipment cost for the net-metering tariff. The Hearing Officer also asked whether that same ratemaking basis should apply to the fees and charges in the fourth paragraph under “Member-Owned LED Fixtures on Member Property” and the \$25 and \$50 reconnection fees under “Suspension of Service” of Policy Bulletin No. 38 L. Finally, the Hearing Officer asked the parties to address the public comment filed by Stephen Bushman on June 26, 2023.

On July 5, 2023, WEC responded to the information request. WEC withdrew the two revised tariff sheets filed on June 21, 2023. Instead, WEC relies on the tariffs filed on June 1, 2023. WEC states that it intends to petition to revise other tariffs in the near future, that it will consult with the Department in the interim, and that its proposal would address the Hearing Officer’s July 3 questions. In addition, WEC notes that its future proposal would ensure full notice and process, thereby addressing Mr. Bushman’s comments.

On July 20, 2023, the Department responded to the information request. The Department states that it agrees with Mr. Bushman that WEC should have provided proper notice regarding its net-metering tariff, which it did not.<sup>1</sup>

We have reviewed the June 1 compliance tariffs and conclude that they accurately reflect the approved rate adjustments. Accordingly, the June 1 compliance tariffs are approved.<sup>2</sup>

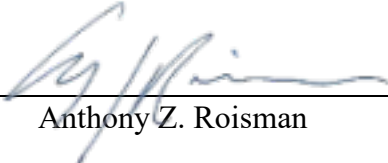
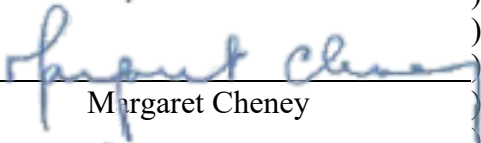
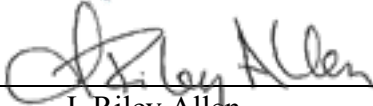
**SO ORDERED.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Department also responded to the other topics in the Hearing Officer’s information request. Because WEC has withdrawn the June 21 revised tariffs, which were the focus of the information request, it is not necessary to address the Department’s comments here.

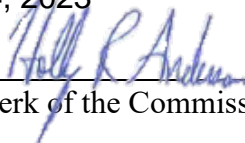
<sup>2</sup> We remind WEC of the requirement under Commission Rule 5.127(A)(2) to recalculate the blended residential rate used to determine the value of net-metering credits and, if applicable, file a revised net-metering tariff to reflect the change.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 14th day of August, 2023.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: August 14, 2023

Attest:   
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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](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov))*

PUC Case No. 22-4100-TF - SERVICE LIST

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