

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 23-2221-INV

Investigation into the Clean Heat Standard Default Delivery Agent Costs and Quantities	
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Order entered: 02/12/2024

ORDER AMENDING SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On June 30, 2023, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued an order opening this investigation to establish the Default Delivery Agent (“DDA”) credit cost or costs, the quantity of credits to be generated for the subsequent three years, and all other directly related matters, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8125(e)(1). The Commission requested comments from stakeholders and members of the public as to the scope and process to be followed in this proceeding.

On October 23, 2023, the Commission issued an order establishing the case scope and procedures. The Commission determined that it would proceed with this case in two tracks and requested recommendations for schedules to address the matters within the two tracks.

On December 8, 2023, the Commission issued an order adopting a schedule for this investigation. The first step in that process was a deadline for written comments addressing the possible number of DDAs, as well as DDA obligations and responsibilities.

On December 15, 2023, Efficiency Vermont filed a request for extension of the first deadline. Efficiency Vermont noted that the topic is complex and that “it is critical for the comments solicited by the Commission on this topic to be complete, and to be a fair representation of the part[ies’] positions.”

On December 18, 2023, the Commission issued an order granting Efficiency Vermont’s extension request on the basis that “[i]t is important that stakeholders’ positions on this complex topic are fully developed and comprehensively documented. Allowing extra time will enable participants to present the Commission with a robust record.” The Commission advised that it would convene a workshop on this topic, and that workshop participants should be prepared to discuss the remainder of the schedule at the workshop.

On January 25, 2024, the Commission convened a workshop on the topic of DDA obligations and responsibilities. The schedule was discussed. Absent any other proposals, workshop participants discussed extending all remaining dates by 28 days, which is the number of days that the first comment deadline date was extended as a result of the December 18 Order.

II. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Consistent with the workshop discussion, we hereby amend the Track 1 schedule for this investigation by extending all remaining dates by approximately 28 days. We have also incorporated feedback that reply comments should come after workshops, rather than before. Additionally, we have removed the reply comment period from the “draft RFP and recommendations for the process to review and appoint the DDA(s)” section of the proceeding to leave more time for the submission and evaluation of DDA bids.

Track 1 Schedule---DDA criteria

January 19, 2024	Deadline for written comments addressing the possible number of DDAs, as well as DDA obligations and responsibilities
January 25, 2024	Workshop to discuss January 19 written filings
February 15, 2024	Deadline for written reply comments addressing January 19 filings and January 25 workshop
March 1, 2024	Target date for Commission decision on possible number of DDAs and DDA obligations and responsibilities
March 8, 2024	Deadline for written comments addressing DDA evaluation criteria, eligibility, and compensation structure
Week of March 11, 2024	Workshop addressing March 8 filings
March 25, 2024	Deadline for written reply comments addressing March 8 comments and workshop discussion
April 12, 2024	Target date for Commission decision on DDA evaluation criteria, eligibility, and compensation structure
April 19, 2024	Target date for draft RFP for DDA(s)

April 29, 2024	Deadline for written comments on (1) draft RFP, (2) recommendations for process to review and appoint DDA(s)
May 10, 2024	Target date for Commission decision on process to review and appoint DDA(s) and issuing RFP
June 1, 2024	Statutory deadline for the Commission to appoint the first DDA(s) ¹

The solicitation, review, and appointment of DDAs will occur in a separate proceeding.²

We do not amend the Track 2 schedule at this time. Instead, we may review and revisit that schedule upon the conclusion of Track 1. In addition, this schedule may evolve as more information is learned from members of the public, stakeholders, the Technical Advisory Group, the Equity Advisory Group, and the Commission’s consultants. We will issue scheduling orders as needed to communicate amendments and additions to this schedule.

Track 2 Schedule---DDA budgets, plans, and credit cost

June 28, 2024	Deadline for written comments on evaluation criteria for obligated parties’ plans to deliver clean heat programs
July 12, 2024	Deadline for written reply comments on June 28 filings
Week of July 15, 2024	Workshop on June 28 and July 12 filings, <i>if needed</i>
August 2, 2024	Target date for Commission decision on evaluation criteria for obligated parties’ plans to deliver clean heat programs
September 3, 2024	Department files thermal sector potential study
Week of September 9, 2024	Workshop presentation by Department of thermal sector potential study

¹ 30 V.S.A. § 8125(b). The Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee has introduced a bill – S.306 – that would extend this deadline to “180 days following the General Assembly’s authorization of the adoption of the Clean Heat Standard rule.”


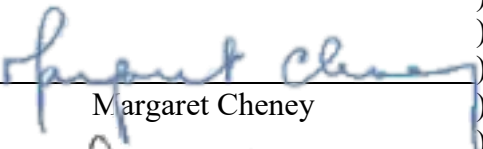
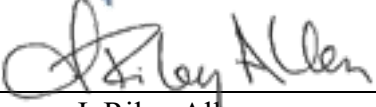
² Case No. 23-2221-INV, Order of 6/30/23 at 3 n 6; Order of 10/23/23 at 3.

November 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDA(s) file three-year budgets and plans, accompanied by testimony and other evidence, as appropriate • Deadline for written schedule proposals for review and adjudication of DDA budgets and plans. Proposals should include at least the following elements: (1) opportunity for a workshop presentation, (2) reply testimony and evidence, and (3) evidentiary hearing.
Week of November 4, 2024	Scheduling conference to discuss schedule for review of DDA plans and budgets

Following the last scheduling conference in Track 2, the Commission will issue an order that adopts a schedule for the review of DDA plans and budgets. The outcome of that schedule will be Commission decisions regarding DDA budgets, plans, and per-credit costs. Following that, the Commission will solicit recommendations for further process, including the filing and review of obligated parties' election forms and the subsequent amendment of DDA budgets and plans, if any.

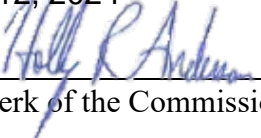
SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 12th day of February, 2024.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY
Edward McNamara)	
))	
 _____)) COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney)	
))) OF VERMONT
 _____)	
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: February 12, 2024

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)

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