

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 22-2954-PET

Petition of the Department of Public Service to open a proceeding to initiate EEU Demand Resources Plan proceeding for the 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 performance periods	
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Order entered: 07/26/2024

ORDER ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BUDGET CATEGORY

The September 26, 2023, Orders in this proceeding established a deadline for the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) to make recommendations based on its review of the information technology category of the Energy Efficiency Utilities’ (“EEUs”) development and support services budgets.

On June 14, 2024, the Department filed recommendations that included a requirement for the EEUs to review their information technology costs against a set of proposed principals to determine if some portion of the costs should be transferred to a sub-category of the resource-acquisition budgets, or in the alternative transferring all information technology costs to a sub-category of the resource-acquisition budgets if that approach enables portfolio-wide strategic investments in information technology and is more administratively efficient. The Department recommended the EEUs conduct the analysis with the Department’s set of principles, and then report back to the Commission by October 16, 2024, or sooner if an EEU elects to propose moving all information technology costs to a sub-category of the resource-acquisition budgets.

In a July 10, 2024, filing, Efficiency Vermont committed to conducting the analysis and filing a summary of its analysis or status update by the proposed October deadline. Efficiency Vermont requested the opportunity to recommend additional principles to guide the analysis.

In a July 10, 2024, filing, Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (“Vermont Gas”) agreed to conduct the Department’s recommended analysis. Vermont Gas stated that the information technology category of its development and support services budgets represents 0.6% of its EEU-funded programs, or \$111,146, over the 2024-2026 performance period and that its information technology costs already largely reflect the Department’s recommended principles. Vermont Gas questioned whether the administrative costs to undertake the analysis and implement changes are in the best interests of ratepayers.

In a July 10, 2024, filing, the City of Burlington Electric Department (“BED”) agreed to conduct the Department’s recommended analysis. BED also expressed concerns about administrative costs to undertake the analysis.

The September 26, 2023, Orders approving Demand Resources Plans for Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Gas, and BED adopted the Department’s proposal to review the information systems category of the EEU’s development and support services budgets and propose changes related to what information costs, if any, are appropriate to categorize as resource-acquisition costs rather than development and support services costs. The Commission adopted the proposal with an understanding of information technology costs and their proportional amount to the total EEU budgets. The Commission has made no changes to this decision. Accordingly, the EEU should complete the analysis.

The deadline for each EEU to file a summary of its completed analysis or status update on information technology costs is Wednesday, October 16, 2024. The analysis must include a review of information system costs against the set of principles recommended by the Department. An EEU may also make recommendations for the inclusion of other principles to guide the analysis.

SO ORDERED

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 26th day of July, 2024.

Mary Jo Krolewski

Mary Jo Krolewski
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: July 26, 2024

Attest: *Pamela Lenahan*
Deputy 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. 22-2954-PET - SERVICE LIST

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