

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 24-3023 -INV

Public Utility Commission 2024 Investigation into Rates Related to Electric Vehicles	
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Order entered: 09/27/2024

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION AND REQUESTING COMMENTS

On June 3, 2021, Act 55, entitled “An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation,” was signed into law.¹ Section 33 of Act 55 directs the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to file an annual report with the Legislature for four years, through January 15, 2025, regarding the progress of Vermont distribution utilities on implementing rates related to plug-in electric vehicles (“EVs” or “PEVs”) and electric vehicle supply equipment (“EVSE”). With this order, the Commission opens an investigation to gather information for the fourth and final report required by Act 55.

The Commission’s reports on EV rates must be developed “in consultation with the Department of Public Service and State electric distribution utilities” and “address the goals delineated in subdivisions (c)(1)(A)–(F) of [Section 33], as applicable, and any progress barriers towards the goals contained in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.”² In addition to the Commission’s reporting requirements, Section 33 of Act 55 directs distribution utilities to develop rates that will help manage EV-related loads for improved cost containment, while encouraging increased customer participation in EV rates and the adoption of EVs. Act 55 required utilities to offer EV rates to their customers by June 30, 2024.

¹ Public Act No. 55 (2021 Vt., Bien. Sess.) (“Act 55”).

² Act 55, Section 33(f).

The Commission has prepared and filed three out of the four reports required by Act 55.³ In 2024, the Legislature passed H.868, which adds the following reporting requirement to the existing Act 55 reporting requirements:⁴

In the report due not later than January 15, 2025, pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 33, the Public Utility Commission shall include a reporting of service upgrade practices related to the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) across all electric distribution utilities, including a comparison of EVSE-related service upgrade practices, a description of the frequency and typical costs of EVSE-related service upgrades, and rate-payer impact.⁵

In its 2025 report, the Commission will again provide an inventory of utilities' existing rates, both approved and pending, related to EVs and EVSE as it has in past years. The Commission will also provide an update on the performance of the EV rates that have been implemented pursuant to Act 55. Finally, the Commission will report on the service-upgrade practices as required by the new reporting requirement of Act 148.

To gather information for the 2025 report, the Commission requests that each distribution utility submit written comments addressing the following topics:

1. For utilities that received exemptions:
 - a. Please provide data about historical and current customer participation levels in the exempt EV rates.
 - b. Please describe the performance of the EV rates in meeting the goals of subsections (c)(1)(A) – (F) of Act 55, Section 33 since receiving your exemption.
 - c. Please describe any outreach efforts or promotion of the EV rates to utility customers since receiving your exemption, including any EV-rate participation incentives or coordination with dealers offering EVs.

³ See Case Nos. 21-5271-INV (first report), 22-4869-INV (second report), 23-1364-INV (third report). All reports can be found in the “Commission Issued Documents” sections of the listed cases in ePUC. Before Act 55 was enacted, the Commission also submitted two legislative reports that addressed electrification of the transportation system more broadly. See the Commission’s report *Promoting the Ownership and Use of Electric Vehicles*, of June 27, 2019, available at https://puc.vermont.gov/sites/psbnew/files/doc_library/Electric%20vehicles%20report.pdf, and the Commission’s report *Supplemental Electric Vehicle Report Submitted Pursuant to Section 35 of Act 59 of the 2019-2020 Vermont Legislative Session* of December 13, 2019, available in Case No. 19-3009-INV.

⁴ H.868 became law on June 3, 2024. See Public Act No. 148 (2024 Vt., Adj. Sess.) (“Act 148”).

⁵ *Id.* § 27.


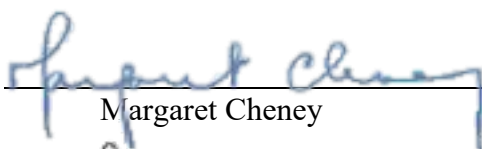
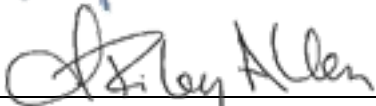
- d. If the Commission required you to implement additional rates, please provide an update on your progress toward filing the additional EV rates for Commission approval.
2. For utilities that received extensions, please describe your progress toward filing your EV rates with the Commission for approval.
3. For utilities that filed new tariffs that were approved by the Commission:
 - a. Please provide data about customer participation levels in the EV rate since implementation.
 - b. Please describe the performance of the EV rates in meeting the goals of subsections (c)(1)(A) – (F) of Act 55, Section 33 since implementation.
 - c. Please describe any outreach efforts or promotion of the EV rates to utility customers since approval, including any EV-rate participation incentives or coordination with dealers offering EVs.
 - d. If the Commission required you to implement additional rates, please provide an update on your progress toward filing the additional EV rates for Commission approval.
4. For all utilities:
 - a. Please identify and discuss any continuing barriers to your progress toward meeting the goals of subsections (a) and (b) of Act 55.
 - b. Please describe your service upgrade practices related to the installation of EVSE across all electric distribution utilities, including a description of the frequency and typical costs of EVSE-related service upgrades and ratepayer impact.
5. Any other topics for inclusion in the 2025 EV report or suggestions for workshops or written filings.

The Commission also invites comments relevant to the above topics or this Order from any other participant or interested party, including the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Please file responses by October 30, 2024. The Commission will review the information provided and may convene a workshop to discuss the responses as necessary.

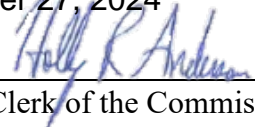
SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 27th day of September, 2024.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: September 27, 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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