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**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

MEMORANDUM

To: Participants in Case No. 23-2220-RULE
From: Riley Allen, Commissioner ^{T&A}
Re: Second Memo Related to Third Workshop Covering the Economic Impacts of Clean Heat Standard required by Act 18 – Focus on Draft Spreadsheet Model – Request for Comments and Meeting Agenda
Date: December 13, 2024

Through this memorandum I am providing further guidance regarding the spreadsheet model that was made available to the participants on December 11, 2024. The spreadsheet was issued as an attachment to a memo from the PUC Clerk's Office as a stand-alone document in Excel format. It can be found in the "Commission Issued documents" section of this case (23-2220-RULE) in ePUC.

As noted in my December 2, 2024, memo, I'm seeking comments from the participants on the draft model, which we will address at the third workshop, to be held on December 18, 2024, at 1:30 PM. Comments are due by close of business on December 17, 2024. Comments in response to the workshop itself are due by December 23, 2024. Participants may access the workshop online at <https://meet.goto.com/456512789>, or call in by telephone using the following information: phone number: +1 (571) 317-3116 using access code: 456-512-789. The workshop will be recorded but not transcribed.

For the December 18 meeting and any related submissions prior, we are most interested in receiving comments on a number of questions, listed at the end of this memo. The threshold issue for the Commission is whether the shared spreadsheet model (with any further adjustments highlighted between now and the workshop) is in sufficiently workable shape to allow users of the model to test and vary the underlying assumptions, such as those featured on the spreadsheet's "Output Controls" tab. As noted in earlier communications, the Commission expects to modify the potential impacts based on (1) inputs related to the price and availability of clean fuels and (2) incentive levels reflecting a range of uncertainties for a key cost driver.

The December 11 version of the model already includes modifications that (1) allow for different measure characterizations resulting from the work of the Commission's consultant and (2) allow for comparison with a simple thermal energy benefit charge (see the Commission's Act 62 reports) without the same administrative costs of a Clean Heat Standard.

As participants will see, the model contains an interactive dashboard that can be utilized to modify key inputs such as those related to the variables listed in the prior paragraph.

Please provide comments on the following broad categories of interest, to be discussed at the workshop.¹ For context, please keep in mind that the model, in its current form, is still a work-in-progress. Any specific concerns with outputs may necessitate further modifications to the structure and formulas used with the existing worksheet model. (For example, one concern highlighted by our consultant was that the value of fuel savings from the policy cases appears to be too high in the version of the model released on December 11, 2024.)

Does the model appear to present estimates of impacts that are reasonably consistent with the TER Report's model outcomes?

Are there any reasons to question the usefulness of this model?

Does the output of the model reasonably resemble outputs associated with the TER model? If not, are there gaps or other departures that require attention and potential fixes before applying further changes to the inputs highlighted in the bulleted list below?

Do the form and structure of the revised model meet the objectives of greater ease and transparent use of the model, as was intended through the creation of a dashboard with toggles and sliders and with the consolidation of the modeling framework into a single workbook?

Does the model produce results that will help the Commission fulfill its reporting obligations under Act 18?

Finally, the Commission continues to welcome guidance on the inputs and assumptions discussed to date. Topics of particular interest include the following:

- Price and availability of clean fuel alternatives, especially in the early program years.
- Incentive levels applied to weatherization and heat pump technologies for middle-income and market-driven households and businesses.
- Measure mix over time, assuming objectives for least-cost delivery.
- Administrative costs that should be used in relation to a Clean Heat Standard, an administrative framework that meets GWSA targets, or are relevant to a business-as-usual case. Again, the model differentiates between program administration costs and State administration costs. We are interested in feedback on both categories of costs.

Tentative agenda for the meeting:

- Introductions and plan for the workshop
- Summary comments from developers of models shared on ePUC (20 minutes total)
- Comments and questions on the models shared
- Recommendations for modifications to inputs and the basis for the modifications
- Next steps

¹ As indicated in the text, some comments have already been received that will inform the discussion. Further comments should be filed in Case No. 23-2220-RULE. The topic category that we are using for this effort is "9 Other"

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