

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 22-5372-TF

Tariff filing of Town of Stowe Electric Department for a 11.5% rate increase to be effective February 1, 2023	
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Order entered: 10/11/2023

ORDER APPROVING COMPLIANCE TARIFFS AND REFUND PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

On August 25, 2023, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) approved a 7.95% general rate increase for the Town of Stowe Electric Department (“Stowe Electric”). As part of its Order, the Commission directed Stowe Electric to file compliance tariffs reflecting the approved rate increase and a plan for refunding to customers all revenue collected in excess of the approved rate increase since February 1, 2023.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 8, 2023, Stowe Electric filed compliance tariffs and a proposed refund plan.

On September 20, 2023, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments on Stowe Electric’s compliance tariffs and proposed refund plan. The Department recommends that Stowe Electric be required to provide an explanation and cost basis for Stowe Electric’s proposal to not provide refunds for former customers that would be entitled to a refund of less than \$5.00. The Department also recommends that Stowe Electric file a revised net-metering tariff that reflects the 7.95% general rate increase consistent with the guidance that the Commission provided to Stowe Electric in an Order issued on March 31, 2023, in Case No. 22-2833-TF.¹

¹ *Tariff filing of Stowe Electric Department revising its net metering tariff effective September 1, 2022*, Case No. 22-2833-TF, Order of 3/31/23, at 2.

III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The Commission has reviewed Stowe Electric's compliance tariffs and the recommendation of the Department. The Commission approves Stowe Electric's revised tariffs. For Stowe Electric's net-metering tariff, consistent with our September 12, 2023, Order in Case No. 23-1682-TF, Stowe Electric is not required to file a revised net-metering tariff that would adjust its blended residential rate to be consistent with the 7.95% general rate increase that we approved in this case.² Instead, Stowe Electric is directed to recalculate the blended residential rate using the methodology required in Commission Rule 5.127(A)(2) and file a revised net-metering tariff as a compliance filing in this case.³

With respect to the refund plan, we approve Stowe Electric's plan except for Stowe Electric's proposal to not provide refunds that would be less than \$5.00 for accounts that have become inactive since February 1, 2023. As we recently explained in Case No. 22-5375-TF, as a matter of fairness, all customers entitled to refunds, including those who have stopped taking service since February 1, 2023, should receive those refunds regardless of the size of the refund.⁴ Therefore, we direct Stowe Electric to attempt to provide refunds to all customers and former customers entitled to refunds, including those that would be entitled to less than \$5.00.

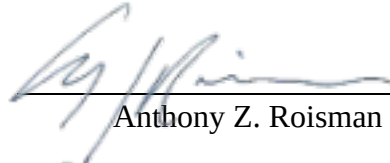
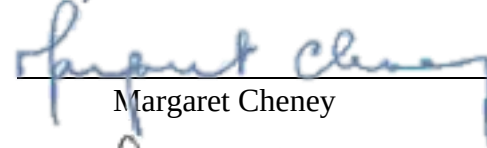
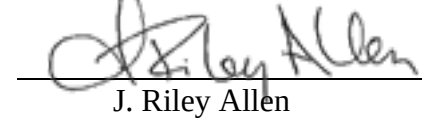
SO ORDERED.

² *Tariff filing of Vermont Electric Cooperative Inc. updating the blended rate calculation effective July 1, 2023*, Case No. 23-1682-TF, Order of 9/12/23, at 4 (“[O]n a going-forward basis and until the Commission revises its net-metering rule, the methodology and procedures set forth in Rule 5.127(a)(2) should be used when a utility using inclining block rates seeks a rate increase of more than 5%.”).

³ We will issue a separate order in Case No. 22-2833-TF closing that case.

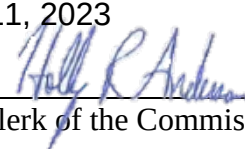
⁴ *Tariff filing of Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department requesting an overall rate increase of 11.25% effective February 1, 2023*, Order of September 19, 2023, at 3.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 11th day of October, 2023.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: October 11, 2023

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)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.

PUC Case No. 22-5372-TF - SERVICE LIST

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