

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: 01/27/2023

**ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On December 16, 2022, the Town of Stowe Electric Department (“Stowe Electric” or the “Company”) filed revised rate schedules and tariff documents with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) reflecting a proposed 11.5% increase in its rates. The tariff changes are proposed to take effect on a service-rendered basis commencing February 1, 2023.

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225, the Vermont Department of Public Service (the “Department”) must investigate the justness and reasonableness of a proposed change to a rate schedule.

On January 17, 2023, the Department recommended that the Commission open an investigation into Stowe Electric’s tariff filing.

**II. DISCUSSION**

Section 225 of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated requires the Commission to open an investigation into a tariff filing if the Department opposes the change in rates. In this case, the Department has recommended that we open an investigation into Stowe Electric’s tariff filing. Accordingly, we hereby do so.

Section 226(b) of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated provides that the Commission may not suspend the effectiveness of a tariff of a municipal or cooperative utility and that such a utility may implement a proposed rate increase pending a Commission investigation provided that the utility “refund revenues collected in excess of those which are finally determined to be just and reasonable.” Section 226(b) further provides that “[a]ny increase in the rates of a municipality or cooperative shall be implemented by means of an identical percentage increase to each class or division of ratepayers.” In light of this statutory

language, Stowe Electric may implement the tariff by means of an identical 11.5% surcharge to each class of ratepayers, subject to the requirement that it refund any amounts collected that are in excess of the amount finally determined to be just and reasonable by the Commission.

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 20 and 21, Stowe Electric will be responsible for court reporter costs incurred by the Commission during this proceeding and billed back to Stowe Electric.

### **III. ORDER**

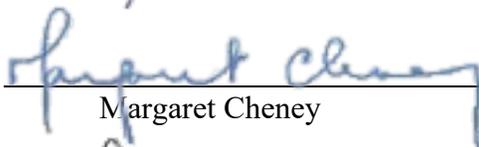
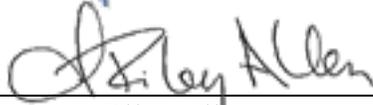
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 225 and 227(a), the Commission opens an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of the Town of Stowe Electric Department’s (“Stowe Electric’s”) proposed tariff revisions as filed with the Commission on December 16, 2022.

2. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 226(b), until a final determination is made in this proceeding, increased rates shall be implemented by means of an identical 11.5% surcharge to each class of Stowe Electric’s ratepayers under the tariffs previously approved by the Commission. Any revenues collected in excess of those that are finally determined to be just and reasonable shall be refunded to Stowe Electric’s ratepayers.

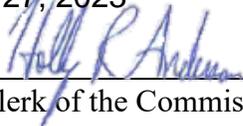
3. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8, Joan White is appointed to serve as the hearing officer to conduct the proceedings in this matter.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 27th day of January, 2023.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: January 27, 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](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov))*

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

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