

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 18-____ - ____

Petition of Town of Stowe Electric Department)
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 225 and 227(a) for a 7.9%)
rate increase to take effect on a service-rendered)
basis August 15, 2018)

MOTION FOR ALTERNATIVE NOTICE/PUBLICATION

NOW COMES the Town of Stowe Electric Department (“SED”), by and through its counsel, Stackpole & French Law Offices, and hereby moves the Commission to approve the alternative notice and publication schedule set forth below for the purpose of ensuring proper notification to customers of its 2018 rate case pending in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of such request, SED offers the following:

MEMORANDUM

1. 30 V.S.A. § 225(a) requires, in connection with a company’s request to change to its rate schedules, “such notice to parties affected by such schedules as the board shall direct.”
2. The default method of notifying customers of a rate change set forth in § 225 is that that the “schedules, or summaries of the schedules approved by the department, shall be published by the company in two newspapers with general circulation in the state within 15 days of such filing.”
3. On June 28, 2018, SED submitted a petition for approval of a proposed rate change with a service-rendered effective date of August 15, 2018.
4. SED is concerned that, due to the significant portion of its customers that reside outside of Vermont, publication in Vermont newspapers alone will fail to reach many of SED’s customers and, as a result, fail to inform them of the proposed rate change.
5. In order to ensure that SED’s out-of-state customers will be appropriately informed of the proceeding, SED requests Commission approval to mail notice of the proposed rate increase directly to its customers in lieu of publishing such notice in a second Vermont newspaper.

6. SED will still publish a notice in the Stowe Reporter, the local newspaper most likely to reach SED's customers, as well as non-customers who may have indirect interests in the proceeding.

7. SED will also post notice of rate change on its website promptly upon filing.

8. The Commission previously approved a similar request on behalf of SED in Docket No. 8463, by Order dated February 4, 2015, and SED found such alternate method of notice effective at informing customers of proposed rate changes.

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, SED requests that the Commission approve the following schedule for notifying customers and the public of SED's proposed rate change:

a. SED will post the Proposed Notice of Rate Changes, in the form attached hereto, on its website within forty-eight (48) hours of submitting its Petition in this proceeding.

b. SED will publish the Proposed Notice of Rate Changes, in the form attached hereto, in the Stowe Reporter on Thursday, July 5, 2018.

c. SED shall mail the Proposed Notice of Rate Changes, in the form attached hereto, to all customers not later than July 11, 2018.

d. In order to provide customers sufficient time to file comments with the Department of Public Service or the Commission following notice and publication, the recommendation of DPS required under 30 V.S.A § 225(b) shall be made not earlier than July 30, 2018.

Dated at Stowe, Vermont, this 28th day of June, 2018.

STACKPOLE & FRENCH LAW OFFICES

By: 

Jeremy D. Hoff, Esq.

Attorney for Stowe Electric Department