

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 21-3883-RULE

Proposed creation of Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule Concerning Energy Storage	
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Order entered: 07/24/2023

ORDER RE NEXT STEPS

On September 17, 2021, the Commission opened this proceeding to develop both a rule addressing energy storage facilities in Vermont pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8011, and the simplified siting process under 30 V.S.A. § 248 for storage facilities with capacities ranging from 100 kW to 1 MW as required by § 248(u).

To date, the Commission has issued several requests for comments and conducted two workshops. While some comments discussed a variety of topics such as aggregation, fire and other safety codes, and the relationships between distribution utilities and storage owners/operators, most of the comments focused on how to review proposals to site and construct different types of facilities. Those comments tended to separate proposed facilities into different categories based on size and location, and attempted to create a simpler process for projects that would presumably have lesser impacts under Section 248's siting criteria.

Based on those comments, the Commission began focusing on developing the simplified application process required by 30 V.S.A. § 248(u). However, while that subsection directs the Commission to develop a simplified process, it does not expressly grant the Commission authority to take any specific steps needed to do so. For example, it does not expressly authorize the Commission to waive application of any normally applicable siting criteria found in § 248. The source of that type of authority is 30 V.S.A. § 8011(d), and it appears to be limited to the development of the rule contemplated by Section 8011. Therefore, the Commission has determined that the simplified process required by § 248(u) must be implemented as part of the rulemaking undertaken pursuant to Section 8011, and not as a standalone item.

The Commission has engaged Sandia National Laboratories to assist in the development of a rule. As part of that engagement we have requested that Sandia develop a series of workshop presentations to assist the Commission and participants in addressing the various

topics identified in 30 V.S.A. § 8011 for inclusion in an energy storage rule. Each workshop will be aimed at a specific topic and will last approximately one hour. Of that one hour, we anticipate approximately 45-50 minutes of presentation time followed by 10-15 minutes for clarifying questions from participants. After each workshop, all participants will be asked to provide written comments and recommendations based on what was presented during the workshop. We expect the series will consist of between four and six workshops.

Once the workshop topics have been finalized, the Commission will issue a schedule for the workshop series with information on how to attend. At this time, the Commission expects the workshops to occur approximately once a week sometime during the fall months.

After the workshops are completed, the Commission will seek recommendations on next steps in the development of a storage rule.

SO ORDERED.

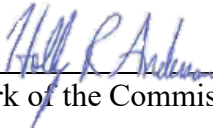
Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 24th day of July, 2023.



John J. Cotter, Esq.
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: July 24, 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)

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