



Legislative and Regulatory Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019

Committee Directors:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton		
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Other Directors present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Morley III, Orleans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Humphrey, Lyndonville
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X indicates attendance in person, P indicates attendance by phone.

Alternates present:

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Others present:

Ken Nolan, VPPSA	Melissa Bailey, VPPSA	Julia Leopold, VPPSA
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Numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers:

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:25 pm at the office of the Authority, located at 5195 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Ctr., Vermont.
2. Melissa Bailey asked if there were requests for changes and/or modifications to the current agenda. There were not.
3. There was no public presence and therefore no comments were made.
4. Consideration of the minutes from the September 11 meeting was tabled due to their not being a quorum of committee members in attendance.
5. Ms. Bailey provided a Regulatory Update covering the current relevant PUC Proceedings. There have been several workshops related to the potential creation of an All Fuels Utility, or expansion of current energy efficiency services in the state. The committee indicated support for VPPSA's proposal that a requirement for EVT to spend in utility service territory proportionately to EEC contributions. VPPSA will seek to advance this proposal in regulatory and legislative forums.

Ms. Bailey informed the committee that comments had been filed in the PUC proceeding to explore the costs and benefits of net metering. Utilities and the Department of Public Service provided consistent analysis on the "value" of net metering generation and pointed out that current compensation levels for net metering significantly exceed the value being delivered. A potential outcome of this proceeding would be to alter the net metering compensation structure. Directors Morley and Humphrey pointed out that this could be a more equitable result, but

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changing net metering billing once again would be accompanied by additional costs to the utilities.

Final comments have been filed in the proceeding around charging a per kWh fee on electric vehicle charging. The PUC will submit a report on this topic to the Legislature in January. A separate proceeding on rate design is being undertaken by the Department of Public Service. Three VPPSA staff plan to attend the first workshop on Nov. 20.

Ms. Bailey notified the committee that VPPSA had led an effort among utilities to propose modifications to the state's residential Disconnect Rule (3.300) intended to lower the utility costs of administering disconnects. The Department responded to the utilities draft by suggesting this proceeding be broadened to encompass billing standards and procedures and commercial disconnects. The PUC has expanded the scope of the proceeding and the Department will file a straw proposal for a comprehensive rule in January.

Director Morley inquired about the status of the Department of Public Service's broadband feasibility study. The VPPSA members had provided responses to the Department's survey earlier this month. The Department plans to complete its study by mid-December. Mr. Nolan informed the committee that VPPSA had been looking into potential federal funding to promote broadband deployment, and at this point that funding appears to be geared towards existing broadband providers.

6. There was a discussion about the upcoming Legislative session. Staff have held meetings with lobbyists and legislative leaders in advance of the session. There will likely be proposals related to expanding Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard, the creation of an "all fuels" efficiency utility, broadband deployment, electric vehicle (EV) charging and funding for the state's transportation fund, and the proposed regional Transportation Climate Initiative under consideration this session. VPPSA conveyed its concerns around expanding the scope of Efficiency Vermont, tension between state renewable energy goals and the hydro relicensing process, and EV taxation to Senators Ashe, Pearson, and Bray and Lt. Governor Zuckerman.
7. Julia Leopold provided an update on VPPSA's proposed 2020 Tier 3 programs under the Renewable Energy Standard. VPPSA intends to expand its prescriptive rebate offerings in 2020 and continue to do so in a manner that is revenue neutral to the utilities. VPPSA's Tier 3 Budget will be included in the overall 2020 operating budget to be considered at the December Board Meeting.
8. There was no Other Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey

Melissa Bailey, Acting Secretary
Legislative & Regulatory Committee