

Proposal for HE&T Consideration – June 8, 2020

* * * Electric Company; Broadband Infrastructure Investments;

Temporary Cost Recovery * * *

Sec. X. ELECTRIC COMPANY COST RECOVERY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION;
PUC TEMPORARY ORDER

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and in recognition of the importance of broadband Internet access service with respect to a customer's ability to participate in our economy and community, as starkly demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in programs related to energy transformation projects as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(28), such as dynamic load control, electric vehicle expansion, storage of renewable energy, and similar technologies, the Public Utility Commission is directed to issue a temporary order that sets forth criteria for cost recovery for investments by an electric distribution utility subject to rate regulation under 30 V.S.A. chapter 5 for its prudently incurred costs in installing or supporting the installation of broadband infrastructure, whether for its own use to support utility plant or to enable communications carriers to provide broadband Internet access service, and also the costs incurred applying for and seeking any certificate, permit, or other regulatory approval issued or to be issued by federal, State, or local government for the installation of broadband infrastructure.

(b) The cost recovery permitted under this section shall pertain only to investments in broadband infrastructure made on or before December 30, 2020.