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Act No. 54 (H.431). Public service; occupational safety and health; accident reporting and investigation; Public Records Act exemptions; cybersecurity; energy storage; Public Utility Commission jurisdiction and adoption of rules; Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel

An act relating to miscellaneous energy subjects

This act makes multiple changes to laws related to energy. This act:

- clarifies the reporting requirement for accidents that occur on lines or plants subject to supervision under 30 V.S.A., chapter 5 and the jurisdictional boundaries between the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Public Service (DPS) for investigating certain accident types
- exempts from disclosure a utility's cybersecurity records
- treats energy storage like energy generation facilities for purposes of land use regulation
- adds energy storage aggregators to the list of entities over which the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and DPS have regulatory jurisdiction
- clarifies which statutes govern energy storage aggregators under the jurisdiction of the PUC
- amends the requirements for an energy storage facility to obtain a certificate of public good
- gives the PUC the authority to adopt rules regulating energy storage facilities
- directs the PUC to update the interconnection rules to address energy storage facilities
- makes several changes to the structure and funding of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel
- amends the Uniform Capacity Tax so energy storage facilities are taxed the same way that solar energy facilities are taxed
- exempts wood pellets used for residential purposes from the sales tax

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 3, 2021