

Kate –

I work for the Town of Stowe Electric Department and heard your introduction to H. 88. As a municipal utility, we're directly responsible to the residents and visitors in our community. We take the cost of service and best interests of our community seriously. Many communities in Vermont have warming and cooling shelters available for their residents and community.

I had staff look at the number of days where the max temperature reached or exceeded 92 degrees, see attached. As you can see, in most years there are 6 or fewer days where the temperature and/or heat index reached or exceeded 92 degrees.

I can appreciate that even 1 day at or over 92 degrees can create a life safety issue for at risk Vermonters. However, I wonder if a new statute or PUC rule update requiring no utility disconnections during days that exceed 92 degrees creates the result that the proposed statute intends. I also wonder if there's another opportunity to reach the goals of the proposed statute without burdening municipal utilities with more administrative costs and oversight. For example, working with municipal and State agencies to expand cooling shelters, or increasing the pace of weatherization and installation of more efficient air conditioning could provide an improved quality of life for our most vulnerable Vermonters without burdening them and the municipalities that serve them with more statutory oversight.

As a municipal utility, we are concerned about the life safety of our customers. We are also aware that placing more restrictions on utility disconnections only seems to increase costs and reduce opportunities for utilities to communicate with their customers. For example, Stowe Electric rarely disconnects a utility consumer as a matter of policy. However, disconnection notices create an opportunity for the customer to speak with utility staff about payment plans, rebates for electrification and efficiency measures, cost saving measures such as smart thermostats, and how to access State and Federal financial assistance. By reducing the opportunity for these conversations, we reduce the chance to make a positive impact in our customer's lives.

Have you reached out to Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux? She's Vermont's State Climatologist and a talented person when it comes to communicating climate and climate risk facing our state. She could add important climate information to this conversation.

Her contact:

Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, Ph.D.
Professor & VT State Climatologist
University of Vermont
Department of Geography & Geosciences
200 Old Mill Building/94 University Place
Burlington, Vermont 05405-0114
(802) 656-2146 (phone)
lesley-ann.dupigny-giroux@uvm.edu

Thank you.



Michael N. Lazorchak
Manager Regulatory Affairs
Stowe Electric Department
PO Box 190
Stowe, VT 05672
Phone: 802.253.7215
Fax: 802.253.4555
Email: mlazorchak@stowelectric.com
www.stowelectric.com

Month	Year	Days 92 Degrees and Above	Days with Heat Index above 92 Degrees
May	2019	0	0
June	2019	0	0
July	2019	0	4
August	2019	0	0
September	2019	0	0
May	2020	0	1
June	2020	0	3
July	2020	0	5
August	2020	0	0
September	2020	0	0
May	2021	0	0
June	2021	0	3
July	2021	0	0
August	2021	0	5
September	2021	0	0
May	2022	0	1
June	2022	0	0
July	2022	0	2
August	2022	0	4
September	2022	0	0
May	2023	0	0
June	2023	0	0
July	2023	0	1
August	2023	0	0
September	2023	0	1
May	2024	0	0
June	2024	1	3
July	2024	0	2
August	2024	0	0
September	2024	0	0