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State of Vermont Public Utility Commission

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Kathleen James
House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure

Re: Public Utility Commission Testimony Follow-Up

Dear Representative James,

Please accept this additional information following up on certain questions and issues that were raised during our testimony on January 8, 2026, regarding the Vermont Public Utility Commission's report pursuant to Act 142 of 2024. Please reach out if you have any additional questions.

1. Can utility electric meters distinguish electric vehicle ("EV") or thermal usage from other electricity usage?

Our understanding is that current metering technology alone cannot distinguish between end uses. However, customers can install energy monitors to measure loads from specific end uses, such as an EV charger.

2. Vermont heating fuel tax(es) relative to the rest of New England.

The other New England states do not have specific heating fuel taxes and exempt most heating fuels from general sales taxes.

3. Do all utilities participate in the Affordable Community Renewable Energy Program ("ACRE")?

No, not all utilities participate in the ACRE Program. The utilities with ACRE programs are Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP"); Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Washington Electric Cooperative; the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority member utilities; and the Town of Stowe Electric Department. The utilities that do not have ACRE programs are the City of Burlington Electric Department and the Village of Hyde Park Electric Department.

For more information about the ACRE programs, see pages 31-33 of the "Act 142 of 2024: Energy Cost-Stabilization Study."

4. RES Tier III and income.

The RES statute requires that “all ratepayers have an equitable opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, [Tier III] energy transformation projects regardless of … income level.” 30 V.S.A. 8005(a)(3)(F)(vi). To effectuate this statutory directive, the Commission’s rules direct that the electric distribution utilities’ spending on Tier III energy transformation projects be in rough proportion to each customer sector’s annual retail sales (Commission Rule 4.413(c)(3)), and the Commission has adopted the “low-income equity spending benchmark” to establish goals for Tier III spending on customers with low income and to track this spending. See Renewable Energy Standard 2022 Tier III Plans, Case No. 21-4080-INV, Order of 3/16/22.

Most electric distribution utilities meet these spending targets by providing specific monetary incentives or rebates to Vermonters with low income for various heat pump technologies, new and used all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and electric vehicle chargers, as well as some other beneficial electrification measures (e.g., electric bikes, yard-care equipment, and induction cooktops). The type and value of incentives vary by electric distribution utility. Additionally, some electric distribution utilities provide custom Tier III projects that benefit Vermonters with low income (e.g., providing funding for beneficial electrification at multifamily housing developments for Vermonters with low income). Custom projects vary from year to year and by utility.

For more information about Tier III, see pages 23-26 of the “Act 142 of 2024: Energy Cost-Stabilization Study.”

5. Disconnection performance metrics.

Disconnection data for all Vermont electric distribution utilities for 2025 is attached. The Excel file also includes information related to GMP’s Electric Assistance Program.

6. Access to the journal article used to examine existing programs outside Vermont.

The state library suggested that the Committee assistant request the article from the Department of Libraries. The article is:

Utility assistance and pricing structures for energy impoverished households: A review of the literature, The Electricity Journal, Volume 37, Issue 2, March 2024, 107368.

Sincerely,

Jake Marren, Elizabeth Schilling, and Jacob Davis
Vermont Public Utility Commission