

SEN. SETH BONGARTZ, VICE CHAIR
SEN. SCOTT BECK
SEN. ROBERT PLUNKETT
SEN. DAVID WEEKS



REP. TREVOR SQUIRRELL, CHAIR
REP. MARK HIGLEY
REP. CAROL ODE
REP. LARRY SATCOWITZ

STATE OF VERMONT

Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

MINUTES

January 15, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, January 15, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in room 10 of the State House in Montpelier, Vermont.

The following members were present:

Sen. Seth Bongartz, Vice Chair
Sen. Scott Beck
Sen. Robert Plunkett
Sen. David Weeks

Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Chair
Rep. Mark Higley
Rep. Carol Ode
Rep. Larry Satcowitz

Staff present:

Bradley Showman
Damien Leonard
Lindsey Schreier

Committee Counsel
Legislative Counsel
Committee Assistant

Approval of Prior Minutes

On motion of Rep. Ode, the Committee approved the minutes of the January 8, 2026, LCAR meeting.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

25-P035 - Public Utility Commission - Rule 9.000 Rule Regarding the Installation, Construction, Operation, and Aggregation of Energy Storage Facilities. Mary Jo Krolewski, Utilities Analyst, and Jake Marren, Staff Attorney, of the Vermont Public Utility Commission answered questions regarding fire safety that LCAR posed at the January 8 meeting.

This new rule implements processes to apply for a certificate of public good for certain energy storage facilities. This rule also implements additional requirements for energy storage

facilities relating to interconnection; safety; duties for utilities, owners, operators, and aggregators; participation in wholesale energy markets; and facility decommissioning.

Members of LCAR discussed concerns regarding fire safety and asked the Public Utility Commission to provide additional information regarding fire safety. The Committee will continue consideration of this rule at the January 22, 2026, meeting.

25-P031 - Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets - Best Management Practices for the Use of Neonicotinoid Treated Article Seeds and Neonicotinoid Pesticides. Steve Dwinell, Director, Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division, Steve Collier, General Counsel, from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee. Jared Carpenter, Water Protection Advocate, the Lake Champlain Committee; Sylvia Knight, Earth Community Advocate and Researcher, Vermont Pesticide and Poison Action Network; Rep. Richard Nelson; and Rep. Esme Cole testified regarding the rule.

This new rule implements the provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves, No. 182 that prohibited the use of neonicotinoid treated article seeds and neonicotinoid pesticides unless subject to a written exemption. The rule establishes best management practices (BMPs) for the use of neonicotinoid treated article seeds and neonicotinoid pesticides when their use is authorized by law.

LCAR will continue review of this rule at the January 22, 2026, meeting.

25-P039 - Office of the State Treasurer - Vermont Saves Program Rule. This amendment updates the existing rule to change the definition of “covered employee” and “covered employer.” The changes would increase the number of employers required to participate and the number of employees who may participate in the Vermont Saves Program.

Due to time constraints, LCAR was not able to review this rule. LCAR will review this rule at the January 22, 2026, meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in room 10 of the State House in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Showman
Committee Counsel

cc: APA Clerk, Secretary of State
ICAR, Agency of Administration