

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0789-INV

Vermont Public Utility Commission orders and memoranda issued in response to COVID-19 pandemic	
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Order entered: 03/27/2020

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF COMMISSIONING DEADLINES

Both the State of Vermont and the federal government have declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the new coronavirus known as COVID-19. The Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) recognizes the importance of helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Vermont.

As an increasing number of Vermonters are spending more and more time at home, maintaining reliable electric service is essential. Many Vermont electric utilities have implemented special operating procedures to keep their employees healthy during this time period so they can continue to provide service to Vermonters. For some utilities, this includes only dispatching field teams for essential services and postponing projects that are not essential, including interconnecting new generation facilities.

In addition, measures put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 are affecting supply chains and construction activities.¹

The Commission recognizes that the utilities’ operational changes and the disruptions to supply chains and construction activities may affect the ability of new generation facilities to meet their commissioning deadlines, as established in their certificates of public good or in their standard-offer contracts. Therefore, the Commission is extending all net-metering commissioning deadlines that are from March 25, 2020, through June 1, 2020. Net-metering commissioning deadlines that are during this time period are extended until September 1, 2020. This extension applies to net-metering projects with a certificate of public good as well as to those for which a certificate of public good was deemed issued. Projects whose commissioning deadlines fall within this time period do not need to file individual requests for extensions.

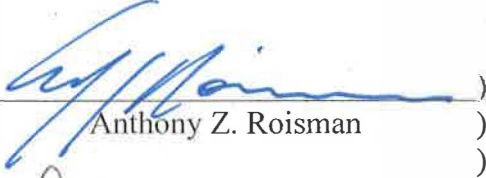
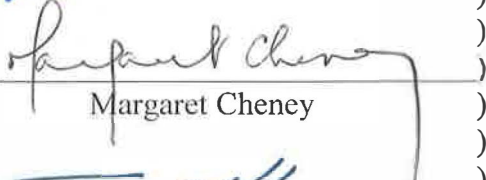

¹ This is noted in the public comment filed by the Northeast Clean Energy Council on March 25, 2020, which is available in this case in ePUC.

In addition, the Commission will instruct the standard-offer facilitator to similarly extend any commissioning deadlines for standard-offer projects that are from March 25, 2020, through June 1, 2020. Commissioning milestones that are during this time period are extended until September 1, 2020.

The conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly evolving, and the Commission is continually evaluating whether further changes to its operations are needed due to the pandemic. As a result, the Commission encourages stakeholders to subscribe to this case in ePUC to receive automatic notifications of any future orders issued by the Commission related to changes to its operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instructions on how to subscribe to a case in ePUC are available at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/epuc-information/subscribe-case> If you need further assistance, please contact the ePUC system administrator at puc.ePUCadmin@vermont.gov.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 27th day of March, 2020

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Anthony Z. Roisman)	PUBLIC UTILITY
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Margaret Cheney)	COMMISSION
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)	
Sarah Hofmann)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 27, 2020

Attest. 
 Clerk of the Commission

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@vermont.gov)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.