STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-3072-INV

2026 standard-offer prices for existing hydroelectric plants with a nameplate capacity of 5 MW or less and farm methane plants	

Order entered: 03/20/2026

ORDER ESTABLISHING 2026 STANDARD-OFFER PRICES FOR FARM METHANE PLANTS

I. INTRODUCTION

Under the Standard Offer Program, the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") is required annually to determine the prices for use in standard-offer contracts for farm methane plants. In this order, we establish prices for small and large farm methane plants.

II. BACKGROUND

Farm methane projects remain outside the Standard Offer Program's cumulative plant capacity amount of 127.5 MW, and these projects may request a standard-offer contract at any time.[1] The Commission is required to annually review the prices under the Standard Offer Program.[2] In 2022, the Commission incorporated the review of farm methane prices into the annual proceeding to update the prices available to existing hydroelectric facilities under 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(p)(4).[3]

The Commission must determine and set the price paid to a plant owner for each kWh generated under a standard-offer contract, with a goal of ensuring timely development at the lowest feasible cost.[4] The standard-offer statute includes factors that the Commission may consider in determining prices.[5]

For 2025 contracts, the Commission established a price of $0.145 per kWh, fixed over the term of the 20-year contract, for large farm methane plants, and a price of $0.199 per kWh,

[1] 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(g).
[2] 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(f)(3).
[3] Case No. 21-4085-INV, Order of 2/15/22 at 10. The 2026 prices for hydroelectric plants were established in a January 30, 2026, order in this proceeding.
[4] 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(f).
[5] *See* 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(f)(2)(B).

fixed over the term of the 20-year contract, for small farm methane plants.[6] The large farm methane category includes plants with a nameplate capacity greater than 150 kW, and the small farm methane category includes plants with a nameplate capacity less than or equal to 150 kW.

The Commission provided an opportunity for recommendations and comments on the 2026 prices. On February 9, 2026, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") filed comments. No other comments were received.

III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Recognizing that changes to markets, federal programs, and tax incentives may affect the cost to develop farm methane plants eligible for standard-offer contracts, the Department states that it has no new information to justify a review of or revision to the current standard-offer pricing for farm methane plants. Thus, the Department recommends that the Commission retain the 2025 prices for use in 2026.

Because no participant requested a review of the prices for farm methane plants, we are adopting the 2025 prices for use in 2026. Accordingly, we establish a price of $0.145 per kWh, fixed over the term of the 20-year contract, for large farm methane plants, and a price of $0.199 per kWh, fixed over the term of the 20-year contract, for small farm methane plants.

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Vermont Public Utility Commission that:

1. Effective for any standard-offer contract executed after March 1, 2026, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(f)(2), the following will serve as the prices for farm methane projects under the Standard Offer Program: (1) $0.145 per kWh fixed over the 20-year contract for projects with a nameplate capacity greater than 150 kW; and (2) $0.199 per kWh fixed over the 20-year contract for projects with a nameplate capacity less than or equal to 150 kW.

2. Within 30 days of the issuance of this order, this case will be closed.

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[6] *See* Case No. 25-2370-INV, Order of 10/3/25; *see also* Case No. 24-0822-INV, Order of 6/7/24; Case No. 23-1860-INV, Order of 8/8/23; Case No. 21-4085-INV, Order of 2/15/22; Case No. 20-2935-INV, Order of 4/26/21; Case No. 19-4466-INV, Order of 06/11/20.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 20th day of March, 2026.

_____	)	
Edward McNamara	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
	)	
	)	
_____	)	COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney	)	
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
_____	)	
J. Riley Allen	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 20, 2026

Attest: _____
Clerk of the Commission

PUC Case No. 25-3072-INV - SERVICE LIST

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