

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	
--	--

Order entered: 08/10/2021

**ORDER ANNOUNCING FURTHER UPDATES
TO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION'S WORK PRACTICES**

On June 15, 2021, the State of Vermont's COVID-19-related state of emergency expired. The day before, Governor Scott lifted the remaining State-imposed social distancing and other pandemic-related requirements that affected the Vermont Public Utility Commission's ("Commission") operations.

On June 18, 2021, the Commission announced certain changes to its work practices. One of those changes was that the Commission:

anticipates implementing a presumption that, starting September 1, 2021, all evidentiary hearings and workshops will be held in person while all scheduling conferences, status conferences, and oral arguments will be held remotely. However, any party could ask the Commission or a hearing officer to change this presumption for a particular event.¹

We revisit and revise that decision today. In the last few weeks, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Vermont has risen significantly. As a result, the Commission is suspending its decision to implement this presumption on September 1, 2021. Instead:

- All scheduling conferences, status conferences, and oral arguments will continue to be held remotely until further notice.
- The Commission will decide no later than two weeks before an evidentiary hearing or workshop whether that particular event will be held remotely or in person. Parties and subscribers to the case in which the event is being held will receive an email from ePUC with a link to the document announcing how the event will be held. The information will also be posted on the hearing calendar on the Commission's website.

In addition, until further notice:

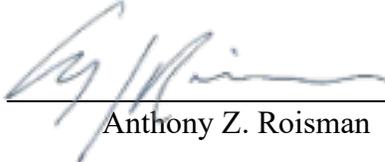
¹ Order of 6/18/21 at 2.

- Decisions about whether to hold public hearings in person or remotely will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Requests to hold a site visit will continue to be considered by hearing officers and the Commission on a case-by-case basis.

The Commission appreciates all stakeholders' adaptability over the last 17 months during the COVID-19 pandemic and asks for your continued patience and flexibility. The Commission will continue to consider COVID-19 case trends in Vermont and any guidance from State officials when we make decisions about resuming the transition to our post-pandemic work practices. The Commission will keep you updated on our expectations for when that transition might resume. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please file a public comment in this proceeding or contact the clerk at puc.clerk@vermont.gov.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 10th day of August, 2021.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY) COMMISSION) OF VERMONT
Anthony Z. Roisman)	
_____)	
 _____)	
Margaret Cheney)	
_____)	
 _____)	
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: August 10, 2021

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)