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**State of Vermont  
Public Utility Commission**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Vermont Public Utility Commission Approves  
Energy Efficiency Budgets**

**Montpelier, VT, July 7, 2017** - Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission approved energy efficiency budgets for Efficiency Vermont, the City of Burlington Electric Department (“BED”), and Vermont Gas Systems (“VGS”). The approved resource-acquisition budgets will continue the robust energy efficiency programs that have produced dramatic reductions in energy demand in Vermont while moderating the impact of those budgets on ratepayers, including those who have already benefited from the state funding of energy efficiency for their residential and commercial activities. Efficiency Vermont provides energy efficiency services throughout most of the state, while BED and VGS provide efficiency services in their respective service territories. “This order reflects the Commission’s continued commitment to energy efficiency as a reliable, cost-effective resource for Vermonters, and strikes a careful balance between achieving aggressive long-term savings while mitigating short-term rate impacts,” PUC Chair Anthony Roisman said.

Following the successful implementation of energy efficiency programs throughout Vermont over the past several decades, which resulted in savings representing approximately 15% of the state’s total electricity needs, there remains significant opportunity for cost-effective electric and natural gas energy efficiency. Continued investment in cost-effective energy efficiency will result in total electric and natural gas costs for Vermont ratepayers that are lower than they would otherwise be absent energy efficiency efforts. These investments not only yield savings for customers who install electric and natural gas efficiency measures, but also result in savings for all ratepayers through reduced need for power purchases by utilities and deferred need for system upgrades such as new transmission facilities. According to a Department of Public Service analysis, over the 20-year planning period covered by these newly approved budgets, customers in Efficiency Vermont’s service territory on average may expect their electric bills to decrease by more than 6%. Customers who participate in energy efficiency programs can expect to save even more. These savings through additional investments in energy efficiency will be obtained at a fraction of the cost of traditional supply-side resources. In 2015, for example, Efficiency Vermont delivered electric efficiency at a cost of approximately 4.4 cents per kWh, compared to a comparable electricity supply of 8.2 cents per kWh. “It is much cheaper to save a kWh than it is to generate a kWh,” PUC Commissioner Margaret Cheney declared.

In approving these budgets, the Commission is mindful that investing in electric and natural gas efficiency also affects customers’ bills. The energy efficiency charge (“EEC”), although small in relation to total utility costs, is additive to overall rates. However, the new budget levels will result in short-term rate relief for Vermont ratepayers while also delivering long-term savings. BED and VGS customers will see reduced EEC rates in the next three years, while customers in

Efficiency Vermont's service territory can expect a reduction in 2018, followed by modest rate increases in 2019 and 2020. The approved budgets reflect a careful balancing of the substantial net societal benefits of energy efficiency investments with the rate and bill impacts that the efficiency programs will have on Vermont's customers.

The text of the Public Utility Commission's decision and more information about Case No. EEU-2016-03 is available via the Commission's electronic filing and case management system, ePUC, at the following website: [epuc.vermont.gov](http://epuc.vermont.gov)

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