

PUBLIC HEARING:
RATEPAYERS IDENTIFY ISSUES
FOR PUC TO ADDRESS REGARDING
GMP RATE REQUESTS

Cases No. 17-3112-INV (rate increase request) and 17-3232-PET (rate adjustments based on changed circumstances))

At a public hearing held by the Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) in Brattleboro on August 29, 2017, ratepayers identified the following issues for the PUC to address during the evidentiary hearings on the GMP rate requests:

1. Should GMP have to seek rate approvals directly from the ratepayers and not only from the PUC?
2. Are the notices of proposed rate increases sufficiently informative to allow ratepayers to know the issues and understand the bases for the requests? Such notices should come with the monthly bill and provide more information, especially the date, time, and place of a hearing and a clear explanation of what it’s about.
3. Should the formal filings on proposed rate increases include an explanation of the information being filed in language more easily understood by people who are not experts? For example, it would be helpful to have an “executive summary” of each case in ePUC in lay language.
4. To the extent a rate increase is a result of the impact of more people generating power at their home or business, such as relatively small solar projects, which generation reduces utility electric sales, should the other ratepayers be required to pay more for their electricity to make up the difference in utility revenue?
5. To the extent the proposed rate increase is in response to charges imposed on GMP by the entities that control the transmission of electricity (ISO-New England and VELCO), are those charges too high?

6. Provide a fuller explanation of how ISO and VELCO determine the charges they will impose on utilities in New England and Vermont and how they determine GMP's share of those costs.
7. Will witnesses from ISO and VELCO appear at the evidentiary hearings to explain the bases for those charges?
8. Are other Vermont utilities also asking for rate increases in response to higher ISO and VELCO charges?
9. In tough economic times, 5% is a significant and unaffordable increase for many people.
10. What is being done to protect the New England grid from "hackers"?
11. Why isn't there more public information about, and use of, variable electric rates that will encourage ratepayers to use electricity when the rates are lower – i.e., during off-peak hours hours?
12. What role is Global Foundries playing in this rate proceeding, and are they getting special treatment that results in higher rates for other ratepayers?
13. What are the differences in calculating the proper rate between the Department of Public Service (which has proposed that the rate increase be less than 2%) and GMP (which has proposed that the rate increase be 4.98%)?
14. Will GMP be able to maintain its current, commendable level of commitment to clean energy and innovative technology if its rate increase is not granted?

The PUC will be considering these issues, and any other issues raised by ratepayers, and will determine which ones are appropriate to address in these rate proceedings. Issues not addressed in these rate proceedings will be addressed by the PUC in the appropriate proceeding.

All ratepayers are encouraged to submit written comments on the GMP rate proposals by mailing or e-mailing comments to the PUC at puc.clerk@vermont.gov or to the Clerk of the Commission, PUC, 112 State Street, 4th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620. The public can learn about the procedures that will be

followed in these two cases at <http://puc.vermont.gov/document/rate-case-procedures>. All documents in case 17-3232-PET and some documents in case 17-3112-INV (all Commission orders, all transcripts, and some filings by parties) can be viewed at <http://epuc.vermont.gov/>. Use the case number (17-3112-INV or 17-3232-PET) to find the documents for each case.

A full transcript of the public hearing will be available soon on ePUC.