

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 21-2441-RULE

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Revised Emergency Rule 2.600 COVID-19  
Emergency Disconnection Rule

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Order entered: 10/08/2021

**ORDER APPROVING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO DISCONNECTION NOTICE FORMS**

Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) Emergency Rule 2.600 requires that certain information be included on disconnection notices sent by utilities to ratepayers whose service they seek to disconnect for non-payment of overdue utility bills. This includes information about the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program II (“VCAAP II”), while that program is accepting applications.<sup>1</sup>

Commission Rules 3.301(C), 3.401(C), and 7.622(E)(2) require that notice of disconnection be provided to ratepayers on a form approved by the Commission. The Commission recently approved disconnection notice forms filed by numerous utilities that comply with the requirements of Emergency Rule 2.600. Those recently approved disconnection notice forms include references to and information about the VCAAP II program. However, it is anticipated that VCAAP II will stop accepting applications while Emergency Rule 2.600 is still in place. As contemplated by Emergency Rule 2.600, utilities will need to revise their disconnection notice forms to remove references to and information about VCAAP II after that program stops accepting applications.

In this order, the Commission approves revised disconnection notice forms for all utilities for use after the VCAAP II program stops accepting applications, provided that the only changes to the recently approved forms are the deletion of references to and information about the VCAAP II program.<sup>2</sup> Utilities do not need to file proposed revised disconnection notice forms

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<sup>1</sup> See, Commission Emergency Rules 2.602, 2.603, and 2.604 (amending Commission Rules 3.303, 3.403, and 7.620(H), respectively).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Emergency Rule 2.600 includes requirements related to two programs that distribute federal funds. The other program is the Vermont Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program (“VERAP”); it is anticipated that VERAP will accept applications for the entire period that Emergency Rule 2.600 will be in place. Therefore, those disconnection notice forms that currently include references to and information about VERAP must continue to do so until that program stops accepting applications.

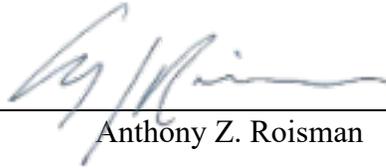
with the Commission for approval unless they are proposing to make other changes to the forms.<sup>3</sup>

**SO ORDERED.**

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<sup>3</sup> This Order only applies to utilities' disconnection notice forms that were approved after July 9, 2021, when revised Emergency Rule 2.600 became effective.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 8th day of October, 2021.

  
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Anthony Z. Roisman )

) PUBLIC UTILITY

  
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Margaret Cheney )

) COMMISSION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Riley Allen )

) OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: **October 8, 2021**

Attest:   
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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](mailto: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.*