



**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION INITIATES
INVESTIGATION TO PROMOTE ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN VERMONT**

Montpelier, VT, July 9, 2018 – Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order opening an investigation into promoting the ownership and use of electric vehicles in Vermont. The goal of the investigation is to identify and eliminate barriers to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles, recognizing that the transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions in Vermont.

Global climate change due to GHG emissions has already had effects on the natural environment in the form of shrinking glaciers, earlier ice breakup on rivers and lakes, shifting plant and animal ranges, sea-level rise, drought, severe storms, and longer, more intense heat waves. Scientists are confident that temperatures will continue to rise for decades with associated long-term effects, including changes in precipitation patterns, a further increase in drought and heat waves, intensifying hurricanes, and accelerated sea-level rise.

Vermont has made significant progress in reducing GHG emissions in its production and consumption of electricity, with a large portion of the electricity consumed in Vermont produced by renewable resources. However, fossil-fuel emissions in Vermont continue to rise, due in large part to emissions from cars and trucks. With its reliance on gasoline and diesel, transportation accounts for 47% of the state’s GHG emissions – outdistancing all other sectors, including residential and commercial heating.

“If Vermont is going to meet its statutory greenhouse-gas reduction goals, it is critical that the barriers to electric vehicle adoption be addressed and eliminated to the extent possible. The Commission believes that this can be accomplished through the collaboration of a wide variety of interested persons and entities engaged in creative thinking, with the goal of identifying innovative solutions to these barriers,” said Commission Chair Anthony Z. Roisman. “We encourage all those who participate in this process to think broadly as they develop their recommendations.”

The Commission will conduct its investigation through a series of written filings and workshops, with each cycle of filings and workshops addressing specific, pre-identified issues. A report will be filed with the Vermont Legislature by July 1, 2019, setting forth the Commission’s analysis of the barriers to electric vehicle adoption in the state and recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate them.

The investigation is being opened in response to Section 25 of Act 158 of the 2017-2018 Vermont legislative session. For more information about the investigation, contact: PUC Staff Attorney John Cotter, 802-828-2358, john.cotter@vermont.gov.

The July 9, 2018, Order can be found by searching for Case No. 18-2660-INV on ePUC, the PUC’s online document-management system.