

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER)
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A)
MULTI-YEAR REGULATION PLAN PURSUANT TO)
30 V.S.A. § 209, 218, and 218d)
)
)

Case No: 18-1633-PET

PUBLIC HEARING

held on July 30, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at
Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland,
Vermont.

VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:
Margaret Cheney, Commissioner
Jake Marren, Esq.

INTERESTED PERSONS PRESENT:
Jim Porter, Department of Public Service
Steve Costello, Green Mountain Power
Kristin Carlson, Green Mountain Power
Elizabeth H. Miller, Esq., Green Mountain
Power

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1 MS. CHENEY: Good evening. This
2 is a public hearing in Case No. 18-1633-PET
3 which concerns the Petition of Green Mountain
4 Power Corporation For Approval of a Multi-Year
5 Regulation Plan. My name is Margaret Cheney,
6 and I'm a member of the Vermont Public Utility
7 Commission. With me today is Jake Marren, a
8 member of the Commission staff.

9 There, as you know, are also
10 representatives from Green Mountain Power here
11 as well as representatives from the Vermont
12 Department of Public Service. They conducted
13 an informational session just prior to this
14 public hearing, and we'll also be available
15 for questions after this public hearing.

16 The purpose of this portion of the hearing
17 is for the Commission to hear comments from
18 you, the members, and maybe there will be more
19 of the public, about the company's request for
20 approval of a multi-year regulation plan.

21 Your comments are helpful in raising new
22 issues or perspectives that the Commission
23 should consider. So, we look forward to
24 hearing your input.

25 This hearing is being transcribed by a

1 court reporter, and the transcript of this
2 public hearing will be available on ePUC, the
3 Commission's electronic case management
4 system. If you wish to speak, it would be
5 helpful to have your name written so that we
6 can have the spelling correct for the court
7 reporter.

8 And today's hearing is not the only
9 opportunity to submit comments. You can
10 provide written comments using ePUC or by mail
11 or E-mail. The contact -- do we have a
12 handout?

13 MR. MARREN: Yes, I already
14 provided that.

15 MS. CHENEY: Okay. So, the
16 contact information is provided in our
17 handout.

18 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Oh, it is
19 only -- I'm not sure I want to speak.

20 MR. MARREN: If you don't want to
21 speak, that's okay.

22 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: I mean --

23 MS. CHENEY: Well, I'll finish
24 explaining how it works and then if you don't
25 wish to speak, that's fine.

1 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Stressing
2 out.

3 MS. CHENEY: And that's the part
4 I'm about to explain.

5 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Okay.

6 MS. CHENEY: So that the point of
7 speaking is also to go into written form,
8 because the court reporter will transcribe it,
9 but you can also submit written comments
10 through ePUC, the on-line case management
11 system, or by mail or by E-mail and that
12 information is on that handout sheet.

13 Over the course of this investigation the
14 Commission may direct the company to respond
15 to any issues that you raise in your comments.
16 At various points in this proceeding we will
17 also ask the company questions that may be
18 based on your comments. When the Commission
19 rules on the company's petition, we will issue
20 a written opinion that also addresses the
21 issues raised by public comments and that
22 explains the basis for the Commission's
23 ruling, and this is not the only public
24 hearing in this case. There was also one in
25 Brattleboro.

1 MR. MARREN: Brattleboro, un-huh.

2 MS. CHENEY: And has the one in
3 St. Albans --

4 MS. CARLSON: St. Albans is this
5 week.

6 MS. CHENEY: -- taken place yet?
7 That's this week. So, would you like to say
8 anything this evening?

9 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Could we go
10 ahead with the Green Mountain Power
11 presentation first or --

12 MS. CHENEY: Well, that
13 presentation, presumably, took place at 6:00,
14 did it?

15 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Okay.

16 MS. CHENEY: Yes. So, these are
17 two separate events, because the Department of
18 Public Service and the Public Utility
19 Commission are separate entities, --

20 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Okay.

21 MS. CHENEY: -- although, our
22 needs are similar. So, the 6 to 7:00 portion
23 is for members of the public to hear a
24 presentation and to ask questions informally
25 of the company and of the department and whose

1 -- one of whose job is to represent the
2 interests of the citizens of Vermont.

3 This portion, which began at 7, is for the
4 Public Utility Commission, which is really the
5 decision-making body, to hear public comments
6 and, hopefully, those public comments are
7 based on what you learned in the previous
8 portion this evening. So, all that's
9 happening now is, we're listening if you
10 choose to speak; if not, again, you could
11 submit written comments. And if you want to
12 ask more questions of the company or the
13 department, we can adjourn this public hearing
14 and you could segue on to that.

15 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: I would
16 like to be a small producer, a residential
17 solar and residential battery operator, and I
18 am not really happy with the options I have at
19 the moment. Right now the Bring Your Own
20 Device Program has no expected roll out date.
21 And what I would like to be able to do is, to
22 be able to offer my power at the ISO New
23 England rate or even slightly below that
24 rather than have the graduated, depending on
25 how much of your battery you're willing to

1 share, option that comes with the Bring Your
2 Own Device Program.

3 I also would like to produce my own power,
4 so I would only be feeding power into the
5 grid, and, so, the \$16 a month I'm paying to
6 be connected to the grid seems excessive. And
7 I have not fully done my homework because
8 there was language in the innovative program
9 for heat pumps that seemed to be more friendly
10 to somebody like myself who, rather than
11 signing up for a graduated rate depending how
12 much of -- how much of my battery I want to
13 share, actually would reimburse me for the
14 peak power that I have spared Green Mountain
15 Power from having to get from, you know, the
16 regional market.

17 But I have more homework to do and, so, I
18 probably will submit written comments as well
19 after I -- I learned a lot from the session
20 before with Green Mountain Power, and, so, I'm
21 -- I haven't fully digested that yet, but
22 since I drove all of the way out here, I want
23 to be on the record, and as long as we're
24 putting stuff on the record, I'm chair of the
25 Hartland -- Town of Hartland Energy Committee.

1 And I think all of us in this room want to
2 move toward renewable energies as quickly as
3 we can; I think that's agreed, and I really
4 look forward to working with everybody here to
5 make that happen. Thanks.

6 MS. CHENEY: Thank you very much.
7 And I really encourage you to submit written
8 comments, too, and we read them. I'm just one
9 of the three commissioners. We all read them;
10 take them seriously, and as I explained
11 earlier, incorporate them into our order,
12 although, the ultimate decision of the case
13 will be based on sworn evidence and testimony,
14 these comments help us in our thinking, and,
15 so, thank you.

16 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Un-huh.

17 MS. CHENEY: And I believe you're
18 the only member of the public who came out.

19 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: I'm sorry?

20 MS. CHENEY: I believe you're the
21 only member of the public who came out this
22 evening; is that right? So, I admire your
23 dedication, --

24 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: Oh.

25 MS. CHENEY: -- especially driving

1 from Hartland.

2 MS. LAUREL STEVENSON: It's my
3 pleasure to be here among friends.

4 MS. CHENEY: Thank you. Well,
5 Jake, do you think we should wait and see if
6 anybody else turns up?

7 MR. MARREN: Maybe a few more
8 minutes and then we can adjourn at 7:15.

9 MS. CHENEY: Okay. So, I think
10 we'll just wait here for five more minutes and
11 feel free to say anything more if you choose
12 to but, otherwise, we'll just see if anyone
13 shows up at the door.

14 (A discussion was held off the
15 record.)

16 MS. CHENEY: I think we'll briefly
17 go back on the record, and seeing no other
18 members of the public and it being 7:15, this
19 public hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

20 (HEARING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:15
21 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa M. Hindes-Moody, Court
Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify
that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through
10, inclusive, are a true and accurate
transcription of my stenographic notes of the
Public Hearing taken before me on
July 30, 2018.

Commission Expires: 2/10/19

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>able 6:21,22 accurate 10:5 addresses 4:20 adjourn 6:13 9:8 adjourned 9:19,20 admire 8:22 agreed 8:3 ahead 5:10 Albans 5:3,4 anybody 9:6 approval 1:3 2:4,20 available 2:14 3:2 AVENUE 1:22</p>	<p>2:7,8,17,22 4:14 4:18 5:19 6:4 10:13 Commission's 3:3 4:22 Commissioner 1:15 commissioners 8:9 Committee 7:25 company 4:14,17 5:25 6:12 company's 2:19 4:19 concerns 2:3 conducted 2:12 connected 7:6 consider 2:23 contact 3:11,16 Corporation 1:3 2:4 correct 3:6 Costello 1:18 course 4:13 court 1:13 3:1,6 4:8 10:2</p>	<p>energies 8:2 Energy 7:25 England 6:23 entities 5:19 ePUC 3:2,10 4:10 especially 8:25 Esq 1:15,19 evening 2:1 5:8 6:8 8:22 events 5:17 everybody 8:4 evidence 8:13 excessive 7:6 expected 6:20 Expires 10:13 explain 4:4 explained 8:10 explaining 3:24 explains 4:22</p>	<p>happen 8:5 happening 6:9 happy 6:18 Hartland 7:25,25 9:1 hear 2:17 5:23 6:5 hearing 1:11 2:2,14 2:15,16,24,25 3:2 3:8 4:24 6:13 9:19,20 10:7 heat 7:9 held 1:12 9:14 help 8:14 helpful 2:21 3:5 Hindes-Moody 10:2 homework 7:7,17 hopefully 6:6</p>	<p>LAUREL 3:18,22 4:1,5 5:9,15,20 6:15 8:16,19,24 9:2 learned 6:7 7:19 Library 1:13 Lisa 10:2 listening 6:9 long 7:23 look 2:23 8:4 lot 7:19</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 9:17 based 4:18 6:7 8:13 basis 4:22 battery 6:17,25 7:12 began 6:3 believe 8:17,20 body 6:5 Brattleboro 4:25 5:1 briefly 9:16 Bring 6:19 7:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>date 6:20 decision 8:12 decision-making 6:5 dedication 8:23 department 1:18 2:12 5:17,25 6:13 depending 6:24 7:11 Device 6:20 7:2 digested 7:21 direct 4:14 discussion 9:14 door 9:13 driving 8:25 drove 7:22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>F 10:1 feeding 7:4 feel 9:11 fine 3:25 finish 3:23 first 5:11 five 9:10 foregoing 10:4 form 4:7 forward 2:23 8:4 free 1:13 9:11 friendly 7:9 friends 9:3 fully 7:7,21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>inclusive 10:5 incorporate 8:11 informally 5:24 information 3:16 4:12 informational 2:13 innovative 7:8 input 2:24 INTERESTED 1:17 interests 6:2 investigation 4:13 ISO 6:22 issue 4:19 issues 2:22 4:15,21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>M 10:2 mail 3:10 4:11 management 3:3 4:10 Margaret 1:15 2:5 market 7:16 Marren 1:15 2:7 3:13,20 5:1 9:7 mean 3:22 member 2:6,8 8:18 8:21 members 2:18 5:23 9:18 Miller 1:19 minutes 9:8,10 moment 6:19 month 7:5 Mountain 1:3,18 1:19,19 2:3,10 5:10 7:14,20 move 8:2 multi-year 1:4 2:4 2:20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C 10:1,1 Carlson 1:19 5:4 case 1:6 2:2 3:3 4:10,24 8:12 certify 10:3 chair 7:24 Cheney 1:15 2:1,5 3:15,23 4:3,6 5:2 5:6,12,16,21 8:6 8:17,20,25 9:4,9 9:16 choose 6:10 9:11 citizens 6:2 comes 7:1 comments 2:17,21 3:9,10 4:9,15,18 4:21 6:5,6,11 7:18 8:8,14 Commission 1:1,14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>E 10:1,1 E-mail 3:11 4:11 earlier 8:11 electronic 3:3 Elizabeth 1:19 encourage 8:7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>go 4:7 5:9 9:17 Good 2:1 graduated 6:24 7:11 Green 1:3,18,19,19 2:3,10 5:10 7:14 7:20 grid 7:5,6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>H 1:19 handout 3:12,17 4:12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>Jake 1:15 2:7 9:5 Jim 1:18 job 6:1 July 1:12 10:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>KILLINGTON 1:22 know 2:9 7:15 Kristin 1:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>language 7:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name 2:5 3:5 needs 5:22 new 2:21 6:22 Notary 10:3 notes 10:6 numbered 10:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O'BRIEN 1:21 offer 6:22 Oh 3:18 8:24 okay 3:15,21 4:5</p>

5:15,20 9:9
on-line 4:10
operator 6:17
opinion 4:20
opportunity 3:9
option 7:1
options 6:18
order 8:11

P

p.m 1:12 9:21
pages 10:4
part 4:3
paying 7:5
peak 7:14
PERSONS 1:17
perspectives 2:22
petition 1:3 2:3
4:19
place 5:6,13
plan 1:4 2:5,20
pleasure 9:3
point 4:6
points 4:16
Porter 1:18
portion 2:16 5:22
6:3,8
power 1:3,18,19,20
2:4,10 5:10 6:22
7:3,4,14,15,20
PRESENT 1:17
presentation 5:11
5:13,24
presumably 5:13
previous 6:7
prior 2:13
probably 7:18
proceeding 4:16
produce 7:3
producer 6:16
program 6:20 7:2,8
provide 3:10
provided 3:14,16
public 1:1,11,14,18
2:2,6,12,14,15,19
3:2 4:21,23 5:18
5:18,23 6:4,5,6,13
8:18,21 9:18,19
10:3,7

pumps 7:9
purpose 2:16
PURSUANT 1:4
putting 7:24

Q

questions 2:15 4:17
5:24 6:12
quickly 8:2

R

R 10:1
raise 4:15
raised 4:21
raising 2:21
rate 6:23 7:11
read 8:8,9
really 6:4,18 8:3,7
record 7:23,24 9:15
9:17
regional 7:16
regulation 1:4 2:5
2:20
reimburse 7:13
renewable 8:2
reporter 3:1,7 4:8
10:3
REPORTING 1:21
represent 6:1
representatives
2:10,11
request 2:19
residential 6:16,17
respond 4:14
right 6:19 8:22
roll 6:20
room 8:1
rules 4:19
ruling 4:23
Rutland 1:13,13,22

S

see 9:5,12
seeing 9:17
segue 6:14
separate 5:17,19
seriously 8:10
Service 1:18 2:12
5:18
SERVICES 1:21

session 2:13 7:19
share 7:1,13
sheet 4:12
shows 9:13
signing 7:11
similar 5:22
slightly 6:23
small 6:16
solar 6:17
somebody 7:10
sorry 8:19
spared 7:14
speak 3:4,19,21,25
6:10
speaking 4:7
spelling 3:6
St 1:13 5:3,4
staff 2:8
STATE 1:1
stenographic 10:6
Steve 1:18
STEVENSON 3:18
3:22 4:1,5 5:9,15
5:20 6:15 8:16,19
8:24 9:2
Stressing 4:1
stuff 7:24
submit 3:9 4:9 6:11
7:18 8:7
sure 3:19
sworn 8:13
system 3:4 4:11

T

T 10:1,1
take 8:10
taken 5:6 10:7
TEL 1:23
testimony 8:13
thank 8:6,15 9:4,19
Thanks 8:5
think 8:1,3 9:5,9,16
thinking 8:14
three 8:9
today 2:7
today's 3:8
Town 7:25
transcribe 4:8
transcribed 2:25

transcript 3:1
transcription 10:6
true 10:5
turns 9:6
two 5:17

U

ultimate 8:12
un-huh 5:1 8:16
Utility 1:1,14 2:6
5:18 6:4

V

V.S.A 1:4
various 4:16
Vermont 1:1,13,14
1:22 2:6,11 6:2

W

wait 9:5,10
want 3:19,20 6:11
7:12,22 8:1
way 7:22
we'll 2:14 9:10,12
9:16
we're 6:9 7:23
week 5:5,7
willing 6:25
wish 3:4,25
working 8:4
works 3:24
written 3:5,10 4:7,9
4:20 6:11 7:18
8:7

X

Y

Z

0

05701 1:22

1

1 10:4
10 1:13 10:5
16 7:5
18-1633-PET 1:6
2:2

2

2/10/19 10:13
2018 1:12 10:8
209 1:4
218 1:4
218d 1:4
223 1:22

3

30 1:4,12 10:8

4

5

6

6 5:22
6:00 5:13

7

7 6:3
7:00 1:12 5:22
7:15 9:8,18,20
747-0199 1:23

8

802 1:23