



**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION SEEKS INPUT ON RULES FOR FORMAL HEARINGS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Montpelier, VT, August 27, 2020 – Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission opened a proceeding to update and revise its formal rules for Commission cases and hearings. Commission practices have changed significantly in recent years. The biggest change has been the move to electronic filing and case management through ePUC (the Commission’s online document-management system). The new proceeding will address the need to consolidate the procedures for electronic filing into one rule. Also, consistent with Act 174 of 2016, the Commission constantly seeks ways to make it easier for the public to participate in its proceedings. The new draft rule proposes changes toward that end, as well as changes to improve the readability and accessibility of our generally applicable rules of procedure.

In this proceeding, the Commission is considering revisions to Commission Rule 2, which governs the rules that apply to Commission proceedings. The Commission seeks feedback from a broad array of participants and members of the public on proposed changes to Rule 2, including:

- Consolidating all of the rules for electronic filing in one place;
- Increasing public access to documents by requiring filings in ePUC where possible;
- Simplifying the process by which legal representatives enter and withdraw from cases;
- Clarifying which direct communications with the Commission are allowed or prohibited;
- Clarifying the process for initiating enforcement proceedings;
- Placing page limits and other requirements on filings and limiting certain forms of discovery;
- Changing the requirements for intervening in a proceeding;
- Adopting a clear protocol for filing confidential information with the Commission; and
- Any other matter that stakeholders identify as this rulemaking proceeding moves forward.

“Our current Rule needs to be updated,” said Commission Chair Anthony Z. Roisman. “We encourage broad participation in this process so that Commission proceedings work better for all Vermonters.”

The Commission seeks written filings from all interested parties by October 2, 2020. The Commission will then schedule workshops and seek additional written comments from all interested parties. This process will eventually lead to a formal rulemaking and filing of a draft rule with the Secretary of State.

The August 27, 2020, Order opening this rulemaking proceeding can be found by searching for Case Number 20-2369-RULE in ePUC (epuc.vermont.gov). For more information, please contact PUC General Counsel Kyle Landis-Marinello: (802) 828-1158, kyle.landis-marinello@vermont.gov.