

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 24-3460-INV

Public Utility Commission investigation into thermal energy exchange networks pursuant to Act 142 of 2024	
---	--

Order entered: 11/19/2024

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION AND REQUESTING COMMENTS

On May 30, 2024, Act 142, entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous changes related to the Public Utility Commission,” was signed into law.¹ Section 15 of Act 142 adds two relevant definitions to Section 201 of Title 30: “thermal energy exchange”² and “thermal energy exchange network.”³ Section 17 of Act 142 directs the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to file a report by December 1, 2025, with the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy “on how to support the development of thermal energy exchange networks and the permitting of thermal energy exchange network providers.” The report must address all aspects of permitting, construction, operation, and rates of thermal energy exchange networks and recommend necessary statutory changes.

With this order, the Commission opens an investigation to gather information for the thermal energy exchange network report required by Section 17 of Act 142. The Commission requests that interested parties with information or suggestions regarding the permitting, construction, operation, and rates of thermal energy exchange networks file such information by

¹ Public Act No. 142 (2024 Vt., Adj. Sess.) (“Act 142”).

² “‘Thermal energy exchange’ means piped noncombustible fluids used for transferring heat into and out of buildings for the purpose of avoiding, eliminating, reducing any existing or new on-site greenhouse gas emissions of all types of heating and cooling processes, including comfort heating and cooling, domestic hot water, and refrigeration.” Act 142 at § 15(7).


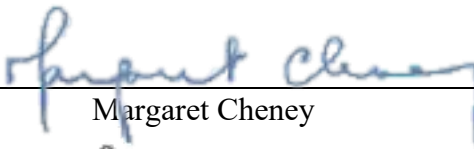
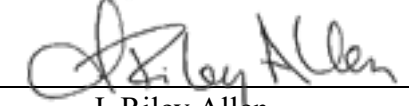
³ “‘Thermal energy exchange network’ means all real estate, fixtures, and personal property operated, owned, used, or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate distribution infrastructure project that supplies thermal energy to more than one household, dwelling unit, or network of buildings that are not commonly owned. This definition does not include a mutual benefit enterprise, cooperative or common interest community that is owned by the persons it serves and that provides thermal energy exchange services only to its members, a landlord providing thermal energy exchange services only to its tenants where the service is included in the lease agreement, or any entity that provides thermal energy exchange services only to itself.” Act 142 at § 15(8).

March 1, 2025. The Commission will review this information and issue notice of next steps in this investigation at that time.

Notice of this proceeding is being provided to the Clerk's general distribution list. Any person or entity wishing to participate in this case should email the Clerk of the Commission at PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov. Importantly, participants can file documents directly into the case in ePUC. Participants also receive email notifications via ePUC when documents are filed or issued.

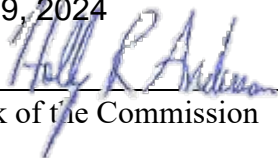
SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 19th day of November, 2024.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY
Edward McNamara)	
 _____)) COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney)	
 _____)) OF VERMONT
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: November 19, 2024

Attest: 

 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)

PUC Case No. 24-3460-INV - SERVICE LIST

James Porter, Director of Public Advocacy
Vermont Department of Public Service
DPS-PA@vermont.gov

(for Vermont
Department of Public
Service)

Others Receiving Notice:

Large PUC email list