

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6290

Investigation into the establishment of)
guidelines for distributed utility planning by)
Vermont electric distribution utilities)

Order entered: 11/5/99

PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

A prehearing conference was held in this docket on October 27, 1999. Appearances were entered by: Aaron Adler, Esq., for the Vermont Department of Public Service ("DPS"); William F. Ellis, Esq., of McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan for the City of Burlington Electric Department; Morris L. Silver, Esq., for Central Vermont Public Service Corporation ("CVPS"); Michael J. Wickenden for Citizens Utilities Company ("Citizens"); Trevor R. Lewis, Esq., of Primmer & Piper, for the 14 Municipal Utilities;¹ Donald J. Rendall, Jr., Esq., of Sheehey Furlong Rendall & Behm for Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP"); Edward V. Schwiebert, Esq., of Reiber, Kenlan, Schwiebert, Hall & Facey, P.C., for the Vermont Marble Power Division of OMYA, Inc.; and William Powell for Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Rochester Electric Light and Power Company ("Rochester") was not represented at the prehearing conference, nor has it filed a written notice of appearance with the Clerk of the Board as was required by the Board's September 30, 1999, Order opening this investigation. Rochester is hereby ordered to file a written notice of appearance in this docket with the Clerk of the Board on or before November 12, 1999.

At the prehearing conference, the parties agreed to hold a series of five collaborative meetings after which they will report the status of their discussions to the Hearing Officer. The five meetings will focus on the following topics:

1. The 14 Municipals include: Barton Village Inc. Electric Department; Village of Enosburg Falls Water & Light Department; Town of Hardwick Electric Department; Village of Hyde Park Electric Department; Village of Jacksonville Electric Department; Village of Johnson Water & Light Department; Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department; Village of Lyndonville Electric Department; Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department; Village of Northfield Electric Department; Village of Orleans Electric Department; Town of Readsboro Electric Light Department; Town of Stowe Electric Department; and Swanton Village Inc. Electric Department.

1. The DPS's proposed guidelines for distributed utility planning ("DUP") and any proposals from other parties. This will include a summary of the proposal(s) and questions and answers about it/them.
2. Case studies of particular transmission and distribution stressed areas, focusing on how specific situations would be evaluated under the DPS's and any other DUP proposals. Three possible case studies are the Grand Isle area in Citizens' service territory, the Williston area in GMP's service territory, and the Southern Loop in CVPS's service territory.
3. Issues associated with distributed generation.
4. Discussion with vendors of software and other products that may be useful in distributed utility planning.
5. Assessment of the progress made so far in the collaborative process and what remains to be done. This will include a discussion of what work products the collaborative should produce, and whether the 120-day deadline for the collaborative process that the parties agreed to in the Memorandum of Understanding in Docket 5980 is still realistic.

The collaborative meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows: the first two in November, 1999; the second two in December, 1999; and the fifth in early January, 2000. The parties shall file a joint report on the results of the collaborative process with the Clerk of the Board on or before January 18, 2000. This report shall include: a description of any areas in which consensus has been reached; a description of any areas which are still under discussion; and recommendations for next steps in this docket.

Several parties expressed a desire that scheduling in this docket take into consideration the demands that will be placed on their resources in early 2000 by activities associated with the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Utility. The schedule for collaborative meetings outlined above was designed with this concern in mind. Parties may raise this issue again, if necessary, at such time as additional proceedings are scheduled in this docket.

SO ORDERED.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 5th day of November, 1999.

s/Ann Thompson

Ann Thompson
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: November 5, 1999

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson

Clerk of the Board

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board of any technical errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made.