

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6315

Investigation of Washington Electric)
Cooperative, Inc.'s tariff filing)
requesting a 3.8% rate increase,)
to take effect December 3, 1999)

Order Entered: 11/23/99

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION AND
NOTICE OF HEARING

Report

On October 19, 1999, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("WEC") filed revisions to its tariffs reflecting a 3.8% increase in its rates, to take effect on a service-rendered basis commencing December 3, 1999, for bills rendered on and after February 1, 2000 (Tariff #3600). WEC's filing indicates that the proposed rate increase will produce additional revenues in the amount of \$332,667. WEC provided notice of the proposed rate increase to its customers via publication in its membership newsletter, *Co-op Currents*.

On November 17, 1999, the Vermont Department of Public Service, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 225, informed the Board that it had reviewed the filing and recommended that it be investigated.

Temporary Order

The Public Service Board of the State of Vermont HEREBY ORDERS, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 226(b), an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s tariffs as filed with the Board on October 19, 1999.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 226(b), that until final determination of the proceeding hereby instituted, increased rates shall be implemented by means of an additional 3.8% surcharge to each class of ratepayers under rate design tariffs previously approved by the Public Service Board, and in addition to a 6.87% surcharge currently being implemented in PSB Docket No. 6149.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 8, that Ennis John Gidney, Chief Economist, is appointed to serve as the Hearing Officer in this proceeding.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 11(a)(2), that a prehearing conference will be held in this matter on Thursday, December 2, 1999, commencing at 9:30 A.M., at the Public Service Board Hearing Room, Third Floor, Chittenden Bank Building, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 23rd day of November, 1999.

VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

BY: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: November 23, 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.