

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0789-INV

Vermont Public Utility Commission orders and memoranda issued in response to COVID-19 pandemic	
--	--

Order entered: 10/28/2022

**ORDER EXTENDING APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE ON MAKING CERTAIN FILINGS
UNTIL REVISED VERSION OF COMMISSION RULE 2.000 TAKES EFFECT**

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus known as COVID-19, the Governor of Vermont and the federal government declared a state of emergency. Although the Governor has since lifted the state of emergency, the risk of virus spread and the consequences of the pandemic persist. The Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) recognizes the importance of helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Vermont.

Social distancing is one step that helps slow the spread of this virus. As a result, the Commission examined its procedural requirements to identify those that require close personal contact and to review whether those requirements could be temporarily modified without adversely affecting other parties’ procedural rights.

The Commission recently promulgated a revised version of Emergency Rule 2.500 to modify those procedural requirements that were contained in the Commission’s rules. The Commission also previously provided additional guidance on how to file confidential documents and notices of appeal with the Commission during the pandemic.

When the Commission filed the most recent version of Emergency Rule 2.500 with the Vermont Secretary of State, the Commission explained that it is undertaking a process of adopting policies and promulgating permanent rules, where appropriate, so that the remaining measures in Emergency Rule 2.500 could either be phased out or incorporated into permanent rules. The Commission intended that the previously provided additional guidance on how to file confidential documents and notices of appeal would also either be phased out or incorporated into permanent rules.

The Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules recently approved proposed modifications to Commission Rule 2.000, although the Commission has not yet filed the final

revised permanent Rule 2.000 with the Vermont Secretary of State. The revised Rule 2.000 includes requirements on how to file confidential documents and notices of appeal with the Commission.

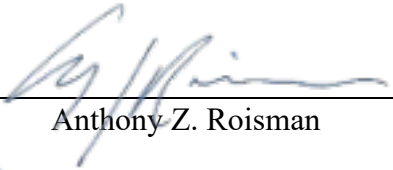
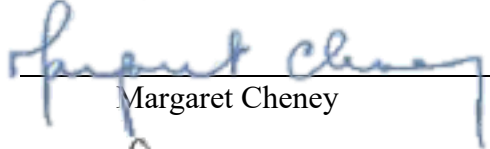
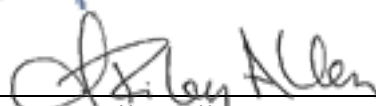
Therefore, to reflect the Commission's intent that the revised permanent Rule 2.000 would replace the previously provided filing guidance, in this order, the Commission extends the applicability of the previously provided guidance only to filings made until the revised version of Rule 2.000 takes effect. Specifically, the Commission extends:

- The guidance on how to file **confidential documents** with the Commission that is contained in the Commission's March 31, 2020, order in this proceeding. The Commission similarly extends the waiver of the portion of Section IV(c) of the Commission's "Standards and Procedures Applicable to Electronic Filing Using ePUC" that requires hard copies of confidential documents to be filed with the Commission within one business day of the date on which the non-confidential version of the document was filed using ePUC.¹
- The guidance on how to file **notices of appeal** with the Commission that is contained in the Commission's April 23, 2020, order in this proceeding.

SO ORDERED.

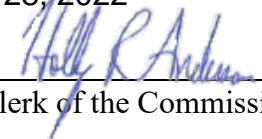
¹ Emergency Rule 2.503 also addresses how to file documents with the Commission.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 28th day of October, 2022.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY
Anthony Z. Roisman)	
) _____)) COMMISSION
 _____)	
Margaret Cheney)	
) _____)) OF VERMONT
 _____)	
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: October 28, 2022

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)