

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Tariff No. 8626

Tariff filing of Washington Electric Cooperative Inc.)
implementing a revised net-metering program)
)

Order entered: 12/23/2016

ORDER RE PROPOSED NET-METERING TARIFF

On October 31, 2016, Washington Electric Cooperative Inc. (“WEC” or the “Company”) filed a proposed tariff implementing a revised net-metering program.

On December 12, 2016, the Vermont Department of Public Service (the “Department”) filed a recommendation that the Board approve the tariff.

The tariff as filed contains language that appears to be inconsistent with the statute¹ and with the Board’s revised net-metering program.² First, WEC’s proposed tariff requires its members to “conform to all applicable requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 219a.”³ On January 1, 2017, this provision of State law will be repealed. Therefore, it is not clear why it is necessary to require WEC’s members to conform to this statute.

Second, WEC’s proposed tariff states that pre-existing systems will receive “no monetary credit” for excess generation 20 years after the commissioning date of such systems.⁴ Pursuant to Section 5.124(I)(3) of the revised net-metering program, pre-existing systems are subject to the energy measurement provisions of Section 5.125. In turn, Section 5.125 states that excess generation from net-metering systems is credited at the “blended residential rate.” This means that until such time as the Board’s net-metering regulations change, pre-existing systems still operating beyond the 20-year period provided for in Section 5.124(C) will be credited at the

1. 30 V.S.A. § 8010.

2. *In Re: Revised net-metering program pursuant to Act 99 of 2014*, Order on Reconsideration, 8/29/16 at Attachment A.

3. WEC Net-Metering Tariff Policy Bulletin No. 38 NM at 1.

4. WEC Net-Metering Tariff Policy Bulletin No. 38 NM at 4, 8, and 9.

blended residential rate. Therefore, an investigation is necessary to determine whether WEC’s proposal is in conformance with these requirements.

Third, WEC’s tariff states that net-metering customers are responsible to “pay for the second meter including equipment and installation at the Coop’s actual cost, which includes overhead.”⁵ WEC shall file a revised tariff specifying, in dollars, the amount of the fee to be imposed. In the alternative, if a meter installation fee is specified elsewhere in WEC’s tariffs, the Company shall file a revised tariff making reference to the tariff where the fee is specified.

WEC is hereby directed to file an amended tariff that addresses the issues discussed above within 30 days. If WEC does not file an amended tariff, then the Board will open an investigation into WEC's proposed net-metering tariff.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 23rd day of December, 2016.

s/James Volz)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
)	
s/Margaret Cheney)	BOARD
)	
)	
s/Sarah Hofmann)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: December 23, 2016

ATTEST: s/Judith C. Whitney
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 (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@vermont.gov)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and Order.

5. WEC Net-Metering Tariff Policy Bulletin No. 38 NM at 3, 7, and 8.