

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7307

Investigation into Vermont Electric Utilities')
Use of Smart Metering and Time-Based Rates)

Order entered: 4/18/2007

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION
AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the request of the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") filed on April 6, 2007, the Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") hereby opens an investigation, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 2(c), 209(a), and 218(b), into Vermont electric utilities' current and future use of "smart metering" and time-based rates. Each Vermont retail electric utility shall participate in this proceeding. The Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco, LLC may also participate at their discretion.

At a minimum, this investigation will evaluate the current status of Advanced Meter Reading and Advanced Meter Infrastructure technology deployment in Vermont and other jurisdictions, the costs and benefits of increased use of these technologies, analysis of barriers to implementation, the possible necessity of state-wide standards or other requirements, and the value (if any) to be gained by use of a pilot program. Moreover, this investigation will evaluate the use of time-based rates as they relate to smart metering, and may be expanded to include consideration of inclining block rates, should future legislation or a subsequent Board ruling require it.

In its petition, the Department proposes a scope and schedule for proceeding, beginning with a Department-conducted analysis and study, followed by two workshops, and proceeding thereafter as appropriate. Parties should be prepared to discuss the Department's proposal and present any alternatives at the Prehearing Conference, which will be held on May 3, 2007.

At this time, this investigation is not a contested case proceeding. If circumstances change or upon request of any party, the Board will consider modifying the procedure as necessary.

II. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that:

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Sections 203, 209, 229, and 230, an investigation is opened into Vermont retail electric utilities' current and future use of "smart metering," time-based rates, and inclining block rates.
2. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 8, George Young, Deputy General Counsel, is appointed to serve as the Hearing Officer in this proceeding.
3. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 10, a Prehearing Conference shall be held in this matter on Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 10:00 A.M., at the Public Service Board Hearing Room, Third Floor, Chittenden Bank Building, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont.
4. Each Vermont retail electric utility shall be a party in this proceeding.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 18th day of April, 2007.

<u>s/James Volz</u>)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: April 18, 2007

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 (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@state.vt.us)