



INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (ICAR) MINUTES

Meeting Date/Location: July 11, 2022, virtually via Microsoft Teams
Members Present: Chair Douglas Farnham, Diane Bothfeld, Jared Adler, John Kessler, Diane Sherman, Michael Obuchowski and Donna Russo-Savage
Members Absent: Brendan Atwood and Jennifer Mojo
Minutes By: Melissa Mazza-Paquette

- 2:01 p.m. meeting called to order.
- Review and approval of minutes from the [June 13, 2022](#) meeting.
- No additions/deletions to agenda. Agenda approved as drafted.
- [Jay Greene](#), Racial Equity Policy and Research Analyst from the State of Vermont Office of Racial Equity, introduced themselves to familiarize themselves on adapting their equity impact assessment tool for the needs of the ICAR.
- No public comments made.
- Note: The ‘PUC Emergency Rule 2.600 COVID-19 Emergency Disconnection Rule’, provided by the Public Utility Commission was supported by ICAR Chair Farnham on July 6, 2022.
 - On July 15, 2021, the moratorium on gas, electric, and basic telephone disconnections was lifted in order to encourage greater participation in the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program II ("VCAAP II") and the Vermont Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program ("VERAP") that distribute federal funds. On June 15, 2021, the statutory moratorium on water disconnections was lifted. The VCAAP II stopped taking applications in October 2021, but the VERAP continues to take applications. The Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program ("VHAP") also continues to take applications and includes utility assistance. This rule encourages continued participation in the arrearage and financial support programs available to utility customers and provides enhanced consumer protections to customers who may be experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Based on the funding sources and anticipated termination of the assistance programs, this likely will be the last renewal of this emergency rule.
- Presentation of Proposed Rules on pages 3-5 to follow:
 - 1) Term and Universal Life Insurance Reserve Financing (Reg. 22-017-I), Department of Financial Regulation, page 2
 - 2) Amendments to the Vermont Air Pollution Control Regulations - Wood Heater rules, Agency of Natural Resources, page 3
 - 3) Vermont Low and Zero Emission Vehicle Regulations, Agency of Natural Resources, page 4

- Committee discussions deferred to the August meeting:
 - ICAR's role in the rulemaking and authority structure in Vermont's government, equity and accessibility to all, and public notification
 - Possible future action items:
 - Inter-agency/department communications on proposed filings
 - Annual internal survey pertaining to anticipated upcoming proposed rules
 - Strike-all proposed rules for transparency
- A special meeting will be set within the next couple of weeks to review the Vermont Low and Zero Emission Vehicle Regulations, Agency of Natural Resources
- Next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- 4:08 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Presented By: Dan Raddock, Hillary Borcharding and Karen Ducharme

Motion made to accept the rule by John Kessler, seconded by Diane Bothfeld, and passed unanimously except for Diane Sherman who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing Coversheet, #10: Remove the authority reference. Define 'ceded' as it pertains to the context of the proposed rule in #8, Concise Summary for clarity to the public.
2. Economic Impact Analysis, #6 and #7: Remove the first sentence in #6. Include language that there is a high threshold to be in the field.

Proposed Rule: Amendments to the Vermont Air Pollution Control Regulations - Wood Heater rules, Agency of Natural Resources

Presented By: Rachel Stevens, Megan O'Toole and Jay Hollingsworth

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Jared Adler, and passed unanimously with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing Coversheet, #7: Include the citation of the enabling authority.
2. Proposed Filing Coversheet, #8: Include alternative to EPA certification and other relevant details.
3. Proposed Filing Coversheet, #10: Correct 'achieves' to 'achieve'.
4. Economic Impact Analysis, #3: Clarify 'should minimal' language.
5. Economic Impact Analysis, #8: Change 'an' to 'a' in the first sentence.
6. Environmental Impact Analysis, #4: Change language to 'no negligible impact' or include beneficial impacts.
7. Environmental Impact Analysis, #6: Change to 'no impact'.
8. Environmental Impact Analysis: Clarify intent and connect efficiencies.
9. Public Input: Include public input outreach to include municipalities and email notifications to stakeholders.

Proposed Rule: Vermont Low and Zero Emission Vehicle Regulations, Agency of Natural Resources

Presented By: Megan O'Toole, Deidre Ritzer, Rachel Stevens and Jane Lazorchak

Due to the economic impact around the state, more time is necessary to consider the proposed rule, therefore is deferred to a special meeting to be held in the next couple of weeks to complete review.