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Services

Senior Counsel - Regulatory

**Legal Department** 

American Electric Power 1051 E Cary Street, Suite 1100 Richmond, Virginia 23219 AEP.com

July 1, 2024

## <u>Via Electronic Mail</u> (Kelsey.Bagot@scc.virginia.gov)

The Honorable Kelsey A. Bagot Office of the Commissioners State Corporation Commission P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Commissioner Bagot:

Please find enclosed, as required by § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, the report of Appalachian Power Company regarding the status of its pilot programs to provide energy assistance and weatherization for low income, elderly, and disabled individuals in its service territory in the Commonwealth.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

James G. Ritter



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July 1, 2024

### <u>Via Electronic Mail</u> (<u>senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov</u>)

The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds Chair, Commerce and Labor Committee Senate of Virginia P.O. Box 5462 Charlottesville, VA 22905-5462

Dear Senator Deeds:

Please find enclosed, as required by § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, the report of Appalachian Power Company regarding the status of its pilot programs to provide energy assistance and weatherization for low income, elderly, and disabled individuals in its service territory in the Commonwealth.

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July 1, 2024

## <u>Via Electronic Mail</u> (Jehmal.Hudson@scc.virginia.gov)

The Honorable Jehmal T. Hudson Office of the Commissioners State Corporation Commission P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Commissioner Hudson:

Please find enclosed, as required by § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, the report of Appalachian Power Company regarding the status of its pilot programs to provide energy assistance and weatherization for low income, elderly, and disabled individuals in its service territory in the Commonwealth.

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July 1, 2024

### Via US Mail

The Honorable Samuel T. Towell Office of the Commissioners State Corporation Commission P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Commissioner Towell:

Please find enclosed, as required by § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, the report of Appalachian Power Company regarding the status of its pilot programs to provide energy assistance and weatherization for low income, elderly, and disabled individuals in its service territory in the Commonwealth.

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July 1, 2024

## <u>Via Electronic Mail</u> (*DelJWard@house.virginia.gov*)

The Honorable Jeion A. Ward Virginia House of Delegates Chair, Labor & Commerce Committee P. O. Box 7310 Hampton, VA 23666

Dear Delegate Ward:

Please find enclosed, as required by § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, the report of Appalachian Power Company regarding the status of its pilot programs to provide energy assistance and weatherization for low income, elderly, and disabled individuals in its service territory in the Commonwealth.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

James G. Ritter



**Legal Department** 

American Electric Power 1051 E Cary Street, Suite 1100 Richmond, Virginia 23219 AEP.com

July 1, 2024

## <u>Via Electronic Mail</u> (GGY74@Governor.Virginia.gov)

Governor Glenn A. Youngkin Commonwealth of Virginia P.O. Box 1475 Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

Please find enclosed, as required by § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, the report of Appalachian Power Company regarding the status of its pilot programs to provide energy assistance and weatherization for low income, elderly, and disabled individuals in its service territory in the Commonwealth.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

James G. Ritter

Enclosure

James G. Ritter Senior Counsel - Regulatory Services

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#### **Veteran Energy Voucher Pilot Program**

Appalachian Power Company ("Appalachian Power" or "the Company") first implemented the Veteran Energy Voucher Pilot Program in October 2015. Appalachian Power and Dollar Energy Fund, Inc. (Dollar Energy) signed a letter of agreement setting forth the operating parameters of the Veteran Energy Voucher Program. As administrator, Dollar Energy is responsible for managing and administering all phases of the Veteran Energy Voucher Program. The goal of the program is to provide utility grant assistance to low-income homeless veterans to assist them getting back into housing. Those veterans enrolled in the Virginia Veterans & Family Support program or the Total Action for Progress (TAP) program within the Company's Virginia service area, qualify for the assistance.

Determined on past performance and estimated need, Appalachian Power has allocated approximately \$30,000 annually to the program: \$26,500 for the funding of grants and \$2,584 for operating fees. From June 2023 through May 2024, the Company has provided 28 energy vouchers to homeless veterans totaling \$14,000. To access the \$500 energy voucher, Virginia Veterans & Family Support or TAP completes the application for new electric service on behalf of the Veteran. The agency also submits an application with Dollar Energy for the energy voucher. Each \$500 energy voucher is used for connection fees and deposits, with any remaining voucher funds applied to future billings.

Under the provisions of Senate Bill 966 of the 2018 General Assembly, the Company will continue the Veteran Energy Voucher Pilot Program. Consequently, Appalachian Power and Dollar Energy have entered into an agreement that will allow the pilot program to continue through 2025, subject to contract renewals through July 1, 2028, if deemed appropriate.

The following table provides statistics of the program for this reporting period, June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. The table also reports year-to-date total program funding / participation.

Appalachian Power June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024						
Virginia Veterans Voucher Program Participation						
Month	Applications	Grants	<b>Amount Granted</b>			
June-23	2	2	\$1,000.00			
July-23	2	2	\$1,000.00			
Aug-23	1	1	\$500.00			
Sept-23	3	3	\$1,500.00			
Oct-23	3	3	\$1,500.00			
Nov-23	6	6	\$3,000.00			
Dec-23	1	1	\$500.00			
Jan-24	2	2	\$1,000.00			
Feb-24	1	1	\$500.00			
Mar-24	3	3	\$1,500.00			
Apr-24	4	4	\$2,000.00			
Total	28	28	\$14,000.00			

Virginia Veterans Voucher Total Program Participation				
Dates	Applications	Grants	Amount Granted	
October 2015 - May 2024	337	331	\$165,500.00	

Total Program Participation by Locality				
County	Applications	Grants	<b>Amount Granted</b>	
VA - City of Roanoke	274	270	\$135,000.00	
VA - City of Lynchburg	32	32	\$16,000.00	
VA - Roanoke	12	12	\$6,000.00	
VA - City of Radford	4	4	\$2,000.00	
VA - Montgomery	5	4	\$2,000.00	
VA - Bedford	1	1	\$500.00	
VA - Botetourt	1	1	\$500.00	
VA - City of Martinsville	1	0	\$0.00	
VA - City of Salem	1	1	\$500.00	
VA - City of Staunton	1	1	\$500.00	
VA - Henry	1	1	\$500.00	
VA- Amherst	2	2	\$1,000.00	
VA - Craig	1	1	\$500.00	
VA - Franklin	1	1	\$500.00	
Total	337	331	\$165,500.00	

#### **Multi-Family Residential Energy Efficiency Pilot**

The goal of the Multi-Family Residential Energy Efficiency Pilot was to weatherize and improve the overall efficiency of a selected multi-family property in the Company's service territory. The Company met with representatives from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and determined the need for a multi-family pilot in the Company's service territory. The selected property, Old Orchard Place, was a 30-unit apartment complex located in Pearisburg. All tenants residing in the property were low income, elderly and/or disabled. This property was chosen in collaboration with Community Housing Partners and is representative of low-income and elderly multi-family housing in the Company's service territory.

The Company partnered with Community Housing Partners to develop a synopsis and scope of work for the property and determined that the best approach to maximize the energy

efficiency of the units would be to replace all heat pumps; replace seven refrigerators; install low-flow aerators on all kitchen and bathroom fixtures; and install new light emitting diode (LED) lighting in all units.

After evaluating the results of the Multi-Family Residential Energy Efficiency Pilot program, the Company determined it would be beneficial to move this program from the pilot stage to a longer-term energy efficiency program. The Program was discussed during the Company's energy efficiency stakeholder meetings and there was overwhelming support for this program and type of approach. The Company proposed a Low-Income Multi-Family Weatherization program in its 2019 Energy Efficiency Rate Adjustment Clause (EE-RAC) filing in Case No. PUR-2019-00122 for the Virginia State Corporation Commission's consideration. The Company received approval on May 26, 2020, to implement the program beginning in January 2021. The program successfully launched to customers in early 2021 and is currently active in APCo's Virginia territory.

### **Energy Efficiency Education Pilot**

The Energy Efficiency Education Pilot, which is required by Subsection H of Senate Bill 1349 (2015 Va. Acts c. 6), identifies Appalachian Power customers who received financial assistance paying their electric bill through different agencies. The program provides mailings directly to these customers with information regarding measures they can take to save energy and reduce electric bills. The mailing contains information regarding programs offered by the Company and by weatherization providers in the service territory to assist customers with energy conservation. Additionally, the mailing includes an offer for a free energy conservation kit that includes simple, easy to install energy saving measures.

The Company partnered with Dollar Energy to collaborate on the pilot program. The Company and Dollar Energy developed an energy efficiency packet that is sent to customers who enroll in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, as well as customers receiving electric bill assistance through other agencies identified by the Company. The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program lets customers donate funds to help pay electric bills for low-income customers in the Company's Virginia service territory. The energy efficiency packet includes:

- Information regarding specific measures or behavior changes customers can take to reduce energy consumption;
- Energy Efficiency and Demand Response programs offered by the Company in which customers could participate;
- Information on other weatherization assistance programs offered in the Company's service territory;
- Literature to increase energy efficiency awareness; and
- A post card with information on how the customer can receive a free energy conservation kit.

For customers to receive the energy conservation kit, they are required to mail back the prepaid information card or call a toll-free number dedicated to the program. Customers who received a grant from the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program are also able to request a kit during the application phase. The energy conservation kits are mailed to the customer's home and contain the following measures:

- Six energy efficient LED light bulbs
- Two energy efficient LED night lights
- Two energy efficient faucet aerators

# • One refrigerator thermometer

Appalachian Power and Dollar Energy have entered into an agreement that will allow the program to continue through 2025, subject to contract renewals through July 1, 2028, if deemed appropriate. The attached table provides statistics of the program for this reporting period from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024.

Appalachian Power June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024				
Dollar Energy Monthly Participation				
Fulfillment Month	# of Kits	Cost for Kits		
Jun-23	200	\$6,422		
Jul-23	142	\$4,560		
Aug-23	159	\$5,105		
Sep-23	100	\$3,211		
Oct-23	100	\$3,211		
Nov-23	241	\$7,739		
Dec-23	323	\$10,372		
Jan-24	90	\$2,890		
Feb-24	123	\$3,950		
Mar-24	161	\$5,170		
Apr-24	227	\$7,289		
May-24	339	\$10,885		
Annual Total	2205	\$70,804.00		

Top 10 Program Localities			
24501	Lynchburg	175	
24301	Pulaski	163	
24073	Christiansburg	104	
24333	Galax	85	
24630	North Tazewell	77	
24502	Lynchburg	74	
24504	Lynchburg	72	
24382	Wytheville	62	
24084	Dublin	59	
24251	Gate City	57	