

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of Vermont Transco LLC and)
Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.) :
(collectively, “VELCO”), for a) Case No. 19-____-PET
certificate of public good, pursuant to)
30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the)
construction of the New Haven)
Operations Facility in New Haven,
Vermont

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF
KENNETH KALISKI
ON BEHALF OF VELCO**

November 15, 2019

Mr. Kaliski’s testimony assesses the sound levels associated with the Project under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5).

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Exhibit Petitioner KHK-2	Sound Study

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**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF
KENNETH H. KALISKI
ON BEHALF OF VELCO**

1 **1. Introduction**

2 Q1. Please state your name, occupation, and business address.

3 A1. My name is Kenneth Kaliski. I am a Senior Director at Resource Systems Group, Inc.
4 (“RSG”) of White River Junction, Vermont.

5 Q2. Please describe your educational background, qualifications and work experience.

6 A2. I am a Professional Engineer with licenses in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts,
7 Illinois, and Michigan. I am Board Certified through the Institute of Noise Control
8 Engineering (“INCE”) and have served on INCE’s Board of Directors and as Vice
9 President for Board Certification. At INCE, I currently serve as the co-chair of the
10 Technical Activity Committee on Wind Turbine Noise and am a member of the INCE
11 Certification Board. I am certified as a Qualified Environmental Professional by the
12 Institute of Environmental Practice and a member of the Acoustical Society of America,
13 where I serve on the Noise Committee. I have worked at RSG for 33 years. Provided as

1 **Exhibit Petitioner KHK-1** is my resume, which sets forth my educational background
2 and professional experience in more detail.

3 Q3. Have you previously testified before the Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) or in other
4 judicial or administrative proceedings?

5 A3. Yes, I have offered testimony in several PUC proceedings. These proceedings include
6 Section 248 approvals for transmission projects such as VELCO’s Northwest Reliability
7 Project (Docket 6860) and TDI New England (Docket 8400), and generation projects
8 such as the Georgia Mountain Community Wind (Docket 7508) and Kingdom
9 Community Wind (Docket 7628). I have also submitted testimony in Swanton Wind
10 (Docket 8816), Dairy Air Wind (Docket 8887), Deerfield Wind (Docket 7250), and
11 Sheffield Wind (Docket 7156). I am familiar with the PUC’s orders relative to sound
12 standards for various transmission and generation facilities, developed to assess whether
13 a project will have an undue adverse effect on the environment pursuant to 30 V.S.A.
14 §248(b)(5).

15 Q4. What is the purpose of your testimony?

16 A4. My testimony describes the work that I have conducted regarding VELCO’s proposed
17 New Haven Operations Facility (the “Project”), introduces the sound study for the Project
18 that I prepared as **Exhibit Petitioner KHK-2**, and explains the results of that study.

1 **2. Summary of Sound Analysis**

2 Q5. Please summarize your findings and conclusions regarding sound levels from the Project.

3 A5. As detailed in the sound study, I evaluated sound levels at the nearest residences to the
4 Project. In particular, I ascertained the approximate background sound levels based on
5 sound monitoring conducted in the area in the past, determined the sound emissions from
6 the equipment proposed at the New Haven Operations Facility, and modeled the
7 projected sound levels at the nearest property lines and homes. As part of this modeling,
8 mitigation measures were implemented. These include the use of low-noise chillers, a
9 retaining wall west of the mechanical equipment area to help block sound, acoustical
10 louvers on the air inlet and outlet sides of the emergency backup generators, sound
11 absorption within the generator rooms, and the use of hospital-grade silencers on the
12 generators. With these proposed mitigation measures, the projected sound levels are
13 below the nighttime median sound levels at all nearby homes under typical operations
14 with only cooling equipment and transformers running. During the routine exercising of
15 the emergency generators, the Project sound level will reach approximately 45 dBA at the
16 nearest property line, and no higher than 34 dBA at the nearest homes, although this will
17 be higher under emergency operations when the generator is under load. Under normal
18 operating conditions, the Project sound levels will be at or under the Town of New Haven
19 Zoning Ordinance limit of 70 dBA and Town Plan recommendation of 45 dBA
20 daytime/40 dBA nighttime at the property line.

21 Q6. Will the Project have an undue adverse effect due to noise?

1 A6. No. I conclude that the Project can be constructed and operated in such a way as to not
2 cause an undue adverse noise impact at area residences.

3 **3. Conclusion**

4 Q7. Does this conclude your testimony?

5 A7. Yes.

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