



110 Main Street, Suite 3B  
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May 29, 2007

*The Burlington Business Association, founded in 1978, is a non-profit, non-political membership organization with 200 business and non-profit members.*

*Our mission is to enhance and promote the economic vitality of Burlington, Vermont, and to assure that the City of Burlington continues as the cultural, social, political, educational and economic center of northwestern Vermont.*

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Barbara Grimes, General Manager  
Burlington Electric Department  
585 Pine Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

Re: Support for the East Avenue Loop Transmission Upgrade Project

Dear Ms. Grimes:

At their May 24, 2007, meeting the Board of Directors of the Burlington Business Association expressed their support for the East Avenue Loop Transmission Upgrade Project.

The project will increase the reliability of power to Burlington's businesses and residents, reduce costs and provide aesthetic benefits on the Burlington Waterfront. Burlington as the economic center of northwestern Vermont provides approximately 30,000 jobs. It also is the location of critical health services, state and county services, educational facilities, and significant cultural amenities and tourist attractions. Reliable power, at a reasonable price, is of major importance to the sustainability of this activity.

The East Avenue Loop Project will reduce the likelihood of crippling power outages by providing a redundant source of power to the East Avenue substation, and wheeling power from East Avenue substation via the new 34.5 sub transmission line to the McNeil Substation. We understand that the project will also benefit the region by providing new capacity to serve load growth in GMP's Chittenden County service area, eliminating GMP's transformer overloads during contingencies.

The Burlington Waterfront affords spectacular views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains, currently marred by the presence of multiple overhead distribution and transmission lines. This project will begin the important process of removing overhead lines, which will happen during later phases of the project.

We appreciate BED's many efforts to provide reliable and affordable power to Burlington ratepayers, and for the reasons stated above offer our support for the East Avenue Loop Transmission Upgrade Project.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wood  
Executive Director