

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Petition of Vermont Transco, LLC , Vermont)
Electric Power Company, Inc. (“VELCO”),)
Burlington Electric Light Department (“BED”),)
and Green Mountain Power Corporation)
 (“Green Mountain Power”) for a Certificate of)
Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 for the)
 “**East Avenue Loop**” Project, located in)
Williston, South Burlington, Colchester,)
Winooski, and Burlington, consisting of the)
following elements: (1) replacement of 4.8 miles)
of an existing single 115 kV line between)
VELCO’s Essex Substation (located in)
Williston) and its East Avenue Substation)
(located in Burlington) with two new 115 kV)
lines within the same corridor; (2) expansion of)
the East Avenue Substation; (3) installation of a)
new 1.5-mile 34.5 kV line from the East Avenue)
Substation to BED’s McNeil Substation (located)
in Burlington); and (4) installation of new and)
relocated equipment at the McNeil Substation)
(located in Burlington))

Docket No. 7314

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF
JERRY OSTRANDER
ON BEHALF OF
PETITIONERS**

September 24, 2008

The purpose of this post-Certificate of Public Good testimony from Mr. Ostrander is to notify the parties of changes to certain pole locations and heights along the 115 kV line to reduce impacts and meet federal regulatory requirements, and to introduce the final line construction plans for Public Service Board approval.

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit PET 8.2.2.1	Revised Plan and Profile
Exhibit PET 8.3.5.1	Revised Structure Details Chart
Exhibit PET 9.2.1	Aesthetic Review of Design Changes (Michael Buscher)

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- 1 **1. Introduction**
- 2 Q1. Please state your name.
- 3 A1. Jerry Ostrander.
- 4 Q2. Have you previously testified in this proceeding?

1 A2. Yes. I previously provided testimony on need and costs associated with the East
2 Avenue Loop Project (“EAL” or “Project”), as well as issues arising from
3 construction of the Project.

4

5 Q3. What is the purpose of your testimony?

6 A3. Condition No. 2 of the Certificate of Public Good for East Avenue Loop (“CPG”)
7 provides as follows:

8 2. Prior to proceeding with construction, Petitioners
9 shall file, for the Board’s approval, final construction plans
10 for the Project, which Project plans shall conform
11 substantially to the Project plans approved by the Order.
12 Petitioners shall note any changes in the final plans from
13 the plans approved by the Order and any affected party
14 shall have two weeks to comment on any such changes
15 from the date the plans are filed.

16 The purpose of this post-Certificate of Public Good testimony is to highlight
17 changes to the final construction plans for the 115 kV line that are materially
18 different from previously filed Project plans (i.e., structure location and height
19 changes to meet federal regulatory requirements and reduce the Project’s
20 impacts), and to have the Board approve the final plans for the 115 kV line in
21 accordance with Condition 2.

22

23 Final construction plans incorporating material changes for the other segments of
24 the Project, including the East Avenue Substation, the McNeil Substation, and the

1 34.5 kV line, are being completed. Petitioners expect to submit those plans to the
2 Board for approval in October.

3

4 **2. Pole Locations and Height Changes**

5 Q4. Describe changes Petitioners are proposing to make to the Project in connection
6 with submission of the final plans for the 115 kV line.

7 A4. Petitioners propose a series of changes along the 115 kV line that are materially
8 different from previously-filed Project plans. The changes are to some of the pole
9 locations and heights, as highlighted below, and as presented on the Revised Plan
10 and Profile included as Exhibit PET 8.2.2.1 (replacing Exhibit PET 8.2.2), and the
11 Structure Details chart included as Exhibit PET 8.3.5.1 (replacing Exhibit PET
12 8.3.5).

13

14 (1) Relocations of Poles to Avoid Archaeological / Natural Resources

15 Petitioners are proposing to relocate the following structures in order to avoid
16 archaeologically-sensitive areas:

- 17 • **S-19:** Relocated 5' eastward.
18 • **N-19:** Relocated 35' eastward.
19 • **S-20:** Relocated 65' westward.
20 • **N-20:** Relocated 50' westward.

21 The resulting structure height changes due to the relocations are as follows:

- 22 • **N-18:** From 1-90'/H1 to 1-95'/H1
23 • **N-19:** From 1-70'/H1 to 1-75'/H1
24 • **N-20:** From 1-65'/H1 to 1-70'/H1
25 • **S-18:** From 1-85'/H1 to 1-90'/H1

- 1 • **S-20:** From 1-70'/H1 to 1-75'/H1
- 2 • **S-21:** From 1-70'/H2 to 1-75'/H2
- 3

4 Petitioners also propose to make changes to a structure location in Williston to
5 avoid a nearby wetland, as follows:

- 6 • **3A:(K-23):** Relocated 293' northward and renamed "3:(K-23)". This
7 structure was moved to eliminate an impact to a wetland, with a resulting
8 structure height increase from 1-65'/H1 to 1-70'/H1.
- 9

10 The relocations will take place within the existing VELCO rights-of-way. No
11 new right-of-way or special access is required. Avoiding these archeological
12 resources and the wetland will result in cost savings for the Project.

13

14 (2) Structure Height Increases for ACOE Water Level Clearance

15 As the Board recognized in Paragraph 289 of the Order approving the CPG, the
16 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard requires clearance of the
17 two 115 kV transmission lines to be at least 33.25 feet above the ordinary high-
18 water level. Through the ACOE permitting process, VELCO has determined that
19 the following structures require height increases to comply with the federal
20 clearance regulations, as follows:

- 21 • **N-9:** From 1-85'/H4 to 1-95'/H4
- 22 • **N-10:** From 1-90'/H4 to 1-105'/H5
- 23 • **S-9:** From 1-85'/H4 to 1-95'/H4
- 24 • **S-10:** From 1-85'/H4 to 1-95'/H4
- 25 • **N-7:** From 1-80'/H1 to 1-85'/H1
- 26 • **N-8:** From 1-80'/H1 to 1-85'/H1
- 27 • **N-11:** From 1-75'/H1 to 1-80'/H1

- 1 • S-7: From 1-80'/H1 to 1-85'/H1
2 • S-8: From 1-80'/H1 to 1-85'/H1
3

4 Apart from these changes, the design of the 115 kV line for the Project is
5 essentially the same as found in the Exhibits previously approved by the Board.
6

7 Q5. Do these changes create the potential for undue adverse effects on aesthetics in
8 the area where the 115 kV line is located?

9 A5. I have consulted with Michael Buscher, Petitioners' aesthetics consultant, on the
10 height changes, and he has confirmed that they will not change any of his prior
11 conclusions regarding the absence of undue adverse effects on aesthetics in the
12 area. His e-mail explaining his analysis is attached as Exhibit PET 9.2.1.
13

14 3. Conclusion

15 Q6. Does this conclude your testimony at this time?

16 A6. Yes, it does.