



KIMBERLY K. HAYDEN

April 14, 2006

Mrs. Susan M. Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
Drawer 20, 112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket No. 6860; Blissville Substation Tree Clearing Plan

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

With this letter Vermont Electric Company, Inc. ("VELCO") requests approval of the enclosed tree clearing plan for the Blissville substation (the "Clearing Plan"). As you know, VELCO submitted final plans for the Blissville substation and that comment period has expired. On March 31, 2006, VELCO filed the Agency of Natural Resources authorization approving VELCO's Winter Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control ("EPSC") Plan and requested that the Board approve the final substation plans, reduce the default review period for the winter EPSC and authorize commencement of construction on or before April 21, 2006. By Memorandum dated April 6, 2006, the Board reduced the comment period on the winter EPSC Plan to April 17, 2006.

VELCO's previously-filed plans did not include a tree clearing plan because the expansion area at the substation is mostly scrub-shrub and VELCO did not anticipate extensive logging. Further, as described in the visual impact analysis of VELCO's aesthetic witness, this substation is located in a remote area where construction will not have a visual impact. The aesthetic analysis of the Department of Public Service aesthetic witness, David Raphael, also did not identify any aesthetic issues specifically related to the Blissville substation.¹

¹ By memorandum dated February 13, 2006, re: Blissville Substation Lighting and other VELCO substations, Mr. Raphael recommended that VELCO: (1) provide lighting specifications and the justification for the use of sodium vapor; (2) use non-reflective gravel for yard surfacing and dark colored siding for the building; and (3) if sodium vapor lights are necessary and substantiated, explore a luminaire that provides the least yellow or orange glow possible. Memo from David Raphael, LandWorks, to Sandy Rowe, VELCO (Feb. 13, 2006). While the

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As show on the enclosed Clearing Plan and aerial photo, VELCO plans to clear: (1) small brush that is part of the expanded fence area; and (2) pine trees (circled in blue on the enclosed photo) to maintain adequate clearing from the proposed substation fence and lines. The proposed clearing area is approximately 180 feet long and 90 feet wide.

Given the remote location and the lack of any comments to date expressing concerns with aesthetic impacts of the substation, VELCO respectfully requests that the Board approve the enclosed tree clearing plan as soon as possible, as construction activities are planned to commence before the end of the month.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Please feel free to contact me at 802-770-6339 (my direct dial line at my VELCO office) should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Kimberly K. Hayden

KKH:lm

Enclosures

cc: Attached Service List-Docket 6860-All Filings
John Donleavy, VELCO
Thomas Dunn, VELCO
Alexendra Rowe, VELCO
Tim Clapp, VELCO
Douglas Best, VELCO
Chair, Town of Poultney Selectboard
Chair, Town of Poultney Planning Commission
Mark Blucher, Rutland Regional Planning Commission

STJ.219129.1

memorandum addressed Mr. Raphael's review of the Blissville Substation, these comments and recommendations apply to all of VELCO's substations in general. *Id.*

Parties:

Aaron Adler, Esq.
Mr. Steve Litkovitz
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street - Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Kimberly K. Hayden, Esq. (For Vermont Electric Power Co., Inc.)
Suzanne M. Monte, Esq.
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
PO Box 99
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-0099

William B. Piper, Esq. (For Vermont Electric Power Co., Inc.)
Primmer & Piper, P.C.
421 Summer Street - PO Box 159
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Joslyn L. Wilschek, Esq. (For Vermont Electric Power Co., Inc.)
Primmer & Piper, P.C.
100 East State Street - P.O. Box 1309
Montpelier, VT 05819

Thomas N. Wies, Esq.
Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.
366 Pinnacle Ridge
Rutland, VT 05701

John B. Kassel, Esq. (For Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.)
Shems Dunkel & Kassel, PLLC
91 College Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Donald J. Rendall, Jr., Esq.
Green Mountain Power Corporation
163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, VT 05446-6611

Peter H. Zamore, Esq. (For Green Mountain Power Corporation)
Benjamin Marks, Esq.
Sheehey Furlong & Behm, P.C.
30 Main Street - P.O. Box 66
Burlington, VT 05402

Warren Coleman, Esq.

David Englander, Esq.
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
103 South Main Street - Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-0301

Matthew Goldberg, Esq.
ISO New England, Inc.
One Sullivan Road
Holyoke, MA 01040

Bernard D. Lambek, Esq.
Zalinger Cameron & Lambek, P.C.
140 Main Street - PO Box 1310
Montpelier, VT 05602

(For ISO New England, Inc.)

Anthony M. Macleod, Esq.
Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan
100 Field Point Road
Greenich, CT 06830

(For ISO New England, Inc.)

Robert E. Fletcher, Esq.
Joseph S. McLean, Esq.
Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.
171 Battery Street - P.O. Box 1507
Burlington, VT 05402-1507

(For Towns of Charlotte, Ferrisburgh and Shelburne
and the City of Vergennes and City of South Burlington)

Larry Simino, Chairman - Selectboard
Town of Ferrisburgh
PO Box 6
Ferrisburgh, VT 05456

Fred S. Dunnington, Town Planner
Town of Middlebury
94 Main Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

(For Town of Middlebury)

James A. Dumont, Esq.
15 Main Street - P.O. Box 229
Bristol, VT 05443

(For Town of New Haven)

Renny Perry, City Manager
James Ouimette, Esq.
City of Vergennes
P.O. Box 35
Vergennes, VT 05491

Vergennes Partnership

P.O. Box 304 - 229 Main Street, Suite 2C
Vergennes, VT 05491

Adam G. Lougee, Executive Director
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
79 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Sandra Dragon, President
Associated Industries of Vermont
P.O. Box 630
Montpelier, VT 05601

**John H. Marshall, Esq.
Downs Rachlin Martin, PLLC
90 Prospect Street
P.O. Box 99
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-0099

(For: Central Vt. Chamber of Commerce, Franklin
County Industrial Corporation, Greater Burlington Industrial
Corporation, Vt. Home Builders & Remodelers Association,
Vt. Society of Professional Engineers, Vt. Ski Areas Assoc
Vt. Chamber of Commerce & Vt. Business Roundtable)

**** (Filings are to be served on the following three individuals only
and not on John Marshall, Esq.)**

Mary Sprayregen
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
60 Main Street - Suite 100
Burlington, VT 05401

Charles Nichols
Vermont Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 37
Montpelier, VT 05601

Lisa Ventriss
Vermont Business Roundtable
69 Swift Street - Suite 300
Burlington, VT 05403

Fred Kosnitsky, Vice President
The Voice for the Potash Brook Watershed
Better Planet
44 North Main Street
St. Albans, VT 05478

Mark Sinclair, Esq.
Conservation Law Foundation

15 East State Street - Suite 4
Montpelier, VT 05602

Vermont Public Interest Research Group
141 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Frederick M. Peyser, Jr.
P.O. Box 64
Beaverdale Farms
Monkton, VT 05469

Mark & Kathy Gagnon
1127 Baptist Street
Williamstown, VT 05679

(Includes landowners Donnel & Jo-Ann Dexter and
Lorraine Gelinas as co-petitioners)

Robert Bick
Shelburne Park Homeowners
c/o 194 Davis Avenue
Shelburne, VT 05482

Michael Hurlburt, President
Vermont Citizens for Safe Energy, Inc.
821 Parks-Hurlburt Road
New Haven, VT 05472

Ebe Markowski & Heidi Mahoney
59 Macdonough Drive
Vergennes, VT 05491

Todd & Elizabeth Rheault
226 Little Chicago Road
Ferrisburg, VT 05456

Edward V. Schwiebert, Esq.
Reiber, Kenlan, Schwiebert & Facey, P.C.
PO Box 578
Rutland, VT 05702-0578

(Includes Edward V. & Lauren G. Schwiebert)

David J. Shlansky, President
Burchfield Resources, LLC
343 Satterly Road
Ferrisburgh, VT 05456

Ray A. & Alison C. Simmons
175 Palmer Court

(Prefers not to receive e-mail; send hard copy only.)

Shelburne, VT 05482

Jeremy & Jennifer Towne
845 Greenbush Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

Gary W. Lange, Esq.
Martha L. Redpath
Swanson & Lange
125 College Street - P.O. Box 5067
Burlington, VT 05402-5067

David L. Grayck, Esq.
Cheney Brock & Saudek, P.C.
159 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

(For Meach Cove Real Estate Trust)

Robert H. Booher
695 Ferry Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

Eric Durett
671 Ferry Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

Catherine E.C. Hughes
685 Ferry Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

Richard Poulin
687 Ferry Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

Daniel P. O'Rourke, Esq.
Bergeron Paradis & Fitzpatrick, LLP
27 Main Street - P.O. Box 925
Burlington, VT 05402-0925

(For Harbor Crossing Owner's Association, Inc.)

James and Catherine Walsh
P.O. Box 48 - 93 Forest Drive
New Haven, VT 05472

Polly C. Parnell
155 Forest Drive - P.O. Box 146
New Haven, VT 05472

Susan M. Dann
James W. Newton
17 Forest Drive - P.O. Box 88
New Haven, VT 05472

Mr. George Smith
2499 No. Grove Street
Rutland, VT 05701

Mr. David Raphael
Landworks
211 Maple Street, #26
Middlebury, VT 05753

Supplemental Distribution List
to Affected Towns and Regional Commission

Docket No. 6860–Blissville

Chair, Town of Poultney Selectboard
9 Main Street, Suite 2
Poultney, VT 05764

Chair, Town of Poultney Planning Commission
9 Main Street, Suite 2
Poultney, VT 05764

Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Mark Blucher, Executive Director
67 Merchants Row–Opera House
P.O. Box 965
Rutland, VT 05702

STJ.219391.1