



February 11, 2008

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

RE: Docket No. 6860; Blissville Substation

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

This filing concerns post-construction site visit and noise study requirements set forth in the Board's May 9, 2006 Order for the Blissville substation. The Order requires that: (1) within 30 days of the completion of construction, VELCO and ANR staff hold a site visit to determine whether supplemental plantings are needed; and (2) within 30 days of completion of construction (including, among other things, supplemental plantings, if any), VELCO file a post-construction noise study plan for Board approval. For the reasons stated below, VELCO respectfully requests that the Board allow VELCO: (1) to conduct the "post-construction" site visit this spring and (2) to submit an actual noise study (attached) in lieu of a plan to conduct a post-construction noise study.

**Post-construction site visit**

A "post construction" site visit would be productive this spring as construction of the Blissville substation is essentially (though not technically) complete: VELCO has completed all earth-disturbing and other construction activities germane to whether supplemental plantings might be needed. A few punch-list items (*e.g.*, labeling panels and switches) remain, none of which bear on the supplemental planting issue. Also, a site visit this spring will facilitate an earlier planting schedule, if additional plantings are in fact required. I have consulted with David Englander, counsel for ANR, and ANR does not object to scheduling the site visit for this spring.

VELCO respectfully requests that the Board allow the "post-construction" site visit to go forward this spring. If that is acceptable to the Board, VELCO will provide the Board with an update on the supplemental planting issue by June 1, 2008.

Post-construction noise study

The new phase shifting transformer (PST) at the substation was energized in December, 2006. On November 1, 2007, while the PST was operating, Resource Systems Group, Inc. (RSG), conducted sound line measurements. See Attachment 1, February 1, 2008 letter from RSG to Doug Best. RSG concluded: "Based on the results of our monitoring, no additional noise mitigation is recommended." Attachment 1 at p. 4. None of the remaining construction punch-list items will increase noise levels at the substation. Therefore, VELCO respectfully requests that the Board accept RSG's sound line measurement report in lieu of a post-construction plan to conduct a noise study.

Thank you for considering these requests. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



S. Mark Sciarrotta  
Senior Counsel