

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 24-3723-PET

Petition of Vermont Transco LLC and Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, for the replacement and removal of structures on the VELCO K24-5 Line in Waterbury, Vermont	
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Order entered: 04/03/2025

**FINAL ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD**

In this order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) adopts the following proposal for decision.

**PROPOSAL FOR DECISION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This case involves a petition filed by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco LLC (“VELCO”) with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) requesting a certificate of public good (“CPG”) under 30 V.S.A. § 248 authorizing the replacement of Structure LCP-020 and removal of temporary Structures LCP-020 and LCP-021 on the VELCO K24-5 Duxbury Tap-Stowe Line in Waterbury, Vermont (the proposed “Project”).

In this proposal for decision, I recommend that the Commission approve the Project and issue a CPG, subject to conditions.

**II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On December 20, 2024, VELCO filed a petition with supporting testimony and exhibits (“Petition”) requesting a CPG for the Project.

On January 30, 2025, I held a scheduling conference.

On March 17, 2025, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) filed a Memorandum of Understanding it entered with VELCO (“ANR MOU”).

On March 21, 2025, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments supporting approval of the Project (“Department Comments”) and its determination

under 30 V.S.A. § 202(f) that the Project is consistent with the Vermont Electric Plan (“202(f) Determination”).

No other comments on the Petition were received by the Commission.

No party has requested an evidentiary hearing or objected to the prefiled testimony and exhibits. Accordingly, the following prefiled testimony and exhibits are admitted as if presented at a hearing: prefiled testimony of Ryan Johnson, VELCO (“Johnson pf.”), and exhibits RCJ-1 through RCJ-6; prefiled testimony of William McNamara, VELCO (“McNamara pf.”), and exhibits WFM-1 through WFM-4; prefiled testimony of Jason Smith, VELCO (“Smith pf.”), and exhibits JWS-1 through JWS-3; Petition; Department Comments; 202(f) Determination; and ANR MOU.<sup>1</sup>

### **III. FINDINGS**

Based on the Petition and the accompanying record in this proceeding, I have determined that this matter is ready for decision. Based on the evidence of record, I report the following findings to the Commission in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 8(c).

#### **Description of the Project**

1. VELCO is a company as defined by 30 V.S.A. § 201, and as such is subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 203. VELCO’s office is located at 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road in Rutland, Vermont. Petition at 1.
2. VELCO owns, operates, and plans for Vermont’s high-voltage electric transmission system. Petition at 1.
3. The Project involves the permanent replacement of Structure LCP-020 on the VELCO K24-5 Duxbury Tap-Stowe Line in Waterbury, Vermont, and the removal of temporary Structures LCP-020 and LCP-021. Johnson pf. at 4.
4. The original laminate pole, Structure LCP-020, was deemed unsafe after core testing was performed in mid-July 2024. It was removed, and temporary structures LCP-020 and LCP-

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<sup>1</sup> If any party has an objection to any of these documents being entered into evidence, the party must submit its objection within 14 days of the date this order is entered.

021 were installed in accordance with an order issued by the Commission on July 24, 2024.<sup>2</sup> Johnson pf. at 4.

5. The Commission's July 2024 order specifically required VELCO to install a permanent replacement for Structure LCP-020 with a steel pole and the removal of the temporary structures. Johnson pf. at 4.

6. The original Structure LCP-020 was a self-supported laminate pole angle structure, meaning it did not use guy wires for support. Johnson pf. at 5.

7. The new Structure LCP-020 is proposed to be a self-supporting steel, single pole dead-end structure on a concrete foundation. McNamara pf. at 4.

8. VELCO's geotechnical and engineering design consultants recommended that the new foundation for Structure LCP-020 be placed at least 20 feet horizontally from the existing retaining wall supporting the upslope soils to minimize transferring soil loads resulting from the foundation to the existing retaining wall. Additionally, the new Structure LCP-020 must be located such that no angle be applied to the adjacent Structure LCP-022 because an angle would produce different loads on Structure LCP-022 for which it was not designed. McNamara pf. at 4.

9. To meet these two criteria, the new Structure LCP-020 will be located approximately 23 feet north of the original Structure LCP-020 conductor attachment location, in line with the original conductor alignment. McNamara pf. at 4.

10. The proposed replacement structure is approximately 72 feet above-grade height, and the foundation will be an approximately six-foot-diameter by 30-foot-deep concrete drilled pier foundation with internal steel anchor bolts and secondary steel rebar cage. McNamara pf. at 4-5.

11. The areas where the temporary structures are removed will be graded and restored to a similar condition that existed before their installation. Vegetation plantings will be installed in areas where removal of vegetation was required for the installation of the temporary structures. Johnson pf. at 6.

12. VELCO is planning two line outages for the Project. The first outage will be necessary for drilling and installing the concrete pier foundation. The second outage will be required for the installation of the new Structure LCP-020, transfer and installation of

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<sup>2</sup> *Petition of Vermont Transco LLC and Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. for a waiver, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(k), for the emergency replacement and relocation of a structure and the addition of another on the VELCO K24-5 Line in Waterbury, Vermont, Case No. 24-2234-PET, Order of 7/24/24.*

conductors, transfer of optical ground wire, and the removal of temporary Structures LCP-020 and LCP-021. The K24-5 Line outages will be coordinated with the interconnecting distribution utilities to ensure there are no overlapping outages with the local sub-transmission system that could impact the ability to support load served in the area. Johnson pf. at 7.

13. Construction, except for construction activities that must be performed during any required transmission outages that may be needed to maintain system reliability, is planned to take place between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays. No construction will take place on Sundays, federal holidays, or state holidays except for Bennington Battle Day in August. Johnson pf. at 11.

#### Discussion

VELCO has requested that any CPG issued for the Project allow for construction activities during any required transmission outages that may be needed to maintain system reliability regardless of their timing on Bennington Battle Day. The Commission typically restricts construction activities to the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays with no construction permitted on Sundays, federal holidays, or state holidays. VELCO's first request will ensure that outages are limited to the extent possible. The second request is reasonable given the short summer construction season and because Bennington Battle Day is not widely granted as a paid day off for the people who will be working on this Project. Therefore, I recommend that any CPG issued for the Project allow for the exceptions requested by VELCO.

### **Review of Project Under the Section 248 Criteria**

#### **Orderly Development of the Region**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(1)]

14. The Project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration having been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions, the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies, and the land conservation measures contained in the plan of any affected municipality. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

15. The Project is consistent with the Town of Waterbury's Municipal Plan and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Regional Plan. Johnson pf. at 13.

16. Neither the municipal planning commission nor the regional planning commission filed any comments on the Project. Johnson pf. at 13.

**Need for Present and Future Demand for Service**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(2)]

17. The Project will meet the need for present and future demand for service which could not otherwise be provided in a more cost-effective manner through energy conservation programs and measures and energy efficiency and load management measures, including but not limited to those developed pursuant to the provisions of subsection 209(d), section 218c, and subsection 218(b) of Title 30. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

18. The K24-5 Line was approved for construction in Docket 7032 and was found to meet the need for present and future demand for service which could not otherwise be provided in a more cost-effective manner through energy conservation programs and measures and energy efficiency and load management measures. Johnson pf. at 14.

19. This Project is needed to permanently replace deficient transmission line assets. Demand side management would not address the need for this Project. Johnson pf. at 16.

**Impact on System Stability and Reliability**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(3)]

20. The Project will not have an adverse effect on system stability and reliability. This finding is supported by the additional finding below.

21. The Project will improve system safety and reliability by installing a permanent replacement for a deficient laminate wood structure. Johnson pf. at 16.

**Economic Benefit to the State**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(4)]

22. The Project will result in an economic benefit to the State and its residents. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

23. The Project will increase property tax revenues based on the capital investment required for the upgrades. Johnson pf. at 16.

24. There will be some local economic benefits associated with engaging local businesses and contractors during the Project's construction phase. Johnson pf. at 16.

**Aesthetics, Historic Sites, Air and Water Purity, the Natural Environment,  
the Use of Natural Resources, and Public Health and Safety**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)]

25. Subject to the conditions described below, the Project will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, or public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K), impacts on primary agricultural soils as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001, and greenhouse gas impacts. This finding is supported by the additional findings below, which give due consideration to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K).

**Outstanding Resource Waters**

[10 V.S.A. § 1424a; 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(8)]

26. The Project will not affect any outstanding resource waters as defined by 10 V.S.A. § 1424a(d) because there are no outstanding resource waters in the Project area. Exh. JWS-2 at 3 and Attachment 2.

**Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gas Impacts**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5); 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)]

27. The Project will not result in undue air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

28. During the construction phase, the Project will have minor emissions from the use of diesel and gasoline powered vehicles and equipment and there may be some dust generated from construction activities. Smith pf. at 7.

29. VELCO will manage any dust in accordance with the Vermont Standards and Specifications for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control and VELCO's Environmental Guidance Manual. Smith pf. at 7.

30. During the operation phase, the Project will not produce greenhouse gases or regulated air emissions. Smith pf. at 7 and 16.

**Water Pollution**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)]

31. The Project will not result in undue water pollution. This finding is supported by the findings under the criteria of headwaters through soils, below.

**Headwaters**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(A)]

32. The Project will not have an undue adverse impact on headwaters. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

33. The Project site is located in a headwaters area because it is located in a watershed of less than 20 square miles and steep slopes and shallow soils are present onsite. However, the Project site is not characterized by other features that define headwaters as set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(A). It is not above 1,500 feet in elevation, is not in a watershed of a public water supply as designated by ANR, and is not in an area that supplies significant amounts of recharge water to aquifers. Exh. JWS-2 at 3 and Attachment 2.

34. The Project will meet all applicable health and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regulations regarding reduction of the quality of the ground or surface waters in a headwaters area. Exh. JWS-2 at 3.

35. Construction-phase soil disturbance will be minimal, and the Project will follow the Low Risk Site Handbook for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control and VELCO's Environmental Guidance Manual. Exh. JWS-2 at 3.

**Waste Disposal**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(B)]

36. The Project will meet all applicable health and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regulations regarding the disposal of wastes and will not involve the injection of waste materials or any harmful or toxic substances into groundwater or wells. Smith pf. at 9.

**Flood Hazard Areas and River Corridors**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(D)]

37. The Project is not located within a flood hazard area or river corridor and therefore will not restrict or divert the flow of floodwaters, cause or contribute to fluvial erosion, or endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public or of riparian owners during flooding. Exh. JWS-2 at 3 and Attachment 2.

**Streams**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(E)]

38. The Project will maintain the natural condition of all streams and will not endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public or adjoining landowners because no work is required or proposed in any streams. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

39. One intermittent stream is located adjacent to the Project area. Exh. JWS-2 at 3.

40. The Project is designed to avoid impacts to streams. No tree clearing or change in land use is proposed within the 50-foot riparian buffer for the intermittent stream. Exh. JWS-2 at 3.

**Shorelines**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(F)]

41. The Project is not located on a shoreline. Exh. JWS-2 at 3 and Attachment 2.

**Wetlands**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(G)]

42. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on wetlands. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

43. The Project will not violate the rules of the Secretary of Natural Resources relating to significant wetlands. Smith pf. at 12-14.

44. There are two Class II wetlands located within the study area for the Project. Smith pf. at 12.

45. Wetland WA-1 is a small seep wetland located adjacent to the intermittent stream. The Project will not involve impacts to wetland WA-1. Smith pf. at 12.



46. The 50-foot wetland buffer for wetland WA-1 is located within a maintained and previously disturbed area. Work activities within the buffer zone will be conducted pursuant to the allowed uses under the Vermont Wetland Rules and limited to placement of temporary construction matting and overland travel to perform the removal of Structure LCP-021. Smith pf. at 13.

47. Wetland WA-2 is a depressional wetland located outside the Project area. Smith pf. at 13.

48. During installation of the temporary structures, VELCO installed a stone access route to transport equipment safely and stably to the site. The access route is located within the 50-foot buffer zone for wetland WA-2. VELCO was unable to access the site and avoid impacts to the wetland buffer due to the following constraints on accessing the site: the topography, the need to avoid the wetland itself, and existing retaining walls and septic infrastructure for the residential development. Smith pf. at 13.

49. VELCO will seek authorization from the Vermont Wetlands Program for the stone access route in the wetland buffer. Smith pf. at 13.

50. ANR and VELCO entered and filed the ANR MOU, which contains conditions to protect against undue adverse effects on wetlands. ANR MOU.

#### Discussion

The ANR MOU contains proposed conditions for inclusion in any CPG issued for the Project to protect against undue adverse effects on wetlands. I recommend that the Commission accept the ANR MOU with all its provisions and conditions, without material change or conditions, and require VELCO to comply with the terms and conditions of the ANR MOU as a condition of the Commission's approval of the Project.

#### **Water Conservation, Sufficiency of Water, and Burden on Existing Water Supply**

[10 V.S.A. §§ 6086(a)(1)(C), (2), and (3)]

51. There is sufficient water available for the reasonably foreseeable needs of the Project. Smith pf. at 10.

52. The Project will not cause an unreasonable burden on an existing water supply because the water needs of the Project are limited to the use of water for dust control during construction, if necessary. Smith pf. at 10.

**Soil Erosion**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(4)]

53. The Project will not cause unreasonable soil erosion or reduce the capacity of the land to hold water so that a dangerous or unhealthy condition may result. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

54. The Project will disturb approximately 0.29 acre and therefore will not require authorization under Construction Stormwater Permit 3-9020. Smith pf. at 14.

55. Project construction will be performed in accordance with the Vermont Standards and Specifications for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control, the Low Risk Site Handbook, VELCO's Environmental Guidance Manual, and applicable best management practices. Smith pf. at 14.

**Transportation**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(5)]

56. The Project will not cause unreasonable traffic or congestion because the Project will cause only a small increase in traffic for a short duration during construction, and no transportation-related permits are needed for the delivery of equipment or materials. Johnson pf. at 17.

**Educational Services**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(6)]

57. The Project will not place an unreasonable burden on the ability of a municipality to provide educational services because the Project will not require or affect educational services. Johnson pf. at 17.

**Municipal Services**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(7)]

58. The Project will not place an unreasonable burden on the ability of the affected municipality to provide municipal or government services because the Project will not require or affect local services. Johnson pf. at 17.

**Aesthetics, Historic Sites, and Rare and Irreplaceable Natural Areas**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)]

59. The Project will not have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics or on the scenic or natural beauty of the area, nor will the Project have an undue adverse effect on historic sites or rare and irreplaceable natural areas. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

**Aesthetics**

60. The Project will not have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics or on the scenic and natural beauty of the area. Johnson pf. at 18; exh. RCJ-6.

61. The Project involves the permanent replacement of K24-5 Line Structure LCP-020, which was a laminated wooden angle structure located east of Blush Hill Road within the Blush Hill Meadows apartment complex. Due to premature deterioration, Structure LCP-020 was previously removed and replaced with two temporary angle structures. The Project involves the removal of the temporary structures and the installation of a new permanent self-weathering steel angle structure near the location of the original structure. Exh. RCJ-6 at 3.

62. During installation of the temporary structures, vegetation had to be removed. Exh. RCJ-6 at 4.

63. The proposed overall height of the new structure will be similar to, though slightly less than, the original structure. Exh. RCJ-6 at 5.

64. Compared with the original laminated wood pole, which was larger but otherwise similar to typical round wooden poles, the new steel pole will have a dark brown color and a somewhat more industrial character compared to a wood pole. Exh. RCJ-6 at 5.

65. The original structure was visible from most areas of the apartment complex. The new structure will be visible from approximately the same area as the original structure and will have a similar visual profile. Exh. RCJ-6 at 4.

66. Because the new structure will be approximately 23 feet farther north than the original structure, the new structure will be more visible from an adjacent residence to the west, and existing vegetative screening that was more effective under the original conditions will be less effective with this change in location. Exh. RCJ-6 at 5.

67. The vegetation that was removed during the installation of the temporary structures, combined with the relocation and installation of the new self-weathering steel pole, will result in

a limited adverse change to the visual character of the area compared with the original conditions. Exh. RCJ-6 at 5.

68. The Project is consistent with the regional and town plans and will not violate a clear, written community standard intended to preserve the aesthetics or scenic beauty of the area. Exh. RCJ-6 at 6.

69. To help soften the visual change from the nearest residence and the apartment complex, an aesthetic mitigation plan (Exh. RCJ-6, Appendix A) has been proposed to help restore the vegetation removed for installation of the temporary angle structures and to reduce the visual impact associated with the proposed steel pole. Exh. RCJ-6 at 6 and Appendix A.

70. Because the replacement structure will be similar to the original structure and because mitigation measures have been incorporated, the Project will not offend the sensibilities of the average person and will not be shocking or offensive. Exh. RCJ-6 at 6.

#### Discussion

In determining whether a project satisfies the aesthetics criterion contained in 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5), the Commission applies the so-called “Quechee test.”

The first step of the test is to determine whether the Project would have an adverse impact on aesthetics and the scenic and natural beauty of an area because it would not be in harmony with its surroundings. If the answer is no, then the project satisfies the aesthetics criterion.

If a project will have an adverse effect on aesthetics, such adverse impact will be found to be undue if any one of the three following questions is answered affirmatively: (a) Would the project violate a clear, written community standard intended to preserve the aesthetics or scenic, natural beauty of the area? (b) Would the project offend the sensibilities of the average person? (c) Have the applicants failed to take generally available mitigating steps that a reasonable person would take to improve the harmony of the proposed project with its surroundings?<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the Commission’s consideration of aesthetics under Section 248 is “significantly informed by overall societal benefits of the project.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Amended Petition of UPC Wind*, Case No. 7156, Order of 8/8/07 at 64-65.

<sup>4</sup> *In re: Northern Loop Project*, Case No. 6792, Order of 7/17/03, at 28.

Turning to the first step of the test, a project has an adverse effect on aesthetics if it would be out of character with its surroundings. Specific factors used in making this evaluation include the nature of the project's surroundings, the compatibility of the project's design with those surroundings, the suitability of the project's colors and materials with the immediate environment, the visibility of the project, and the impact of the project on open space. The vegetation that was removed during the installation of the temporary structures, combined with the relocation and installation of the new self-weathering steel pole, will result in a limited adverse change to the visual character of the area compared with the original conditions. Because of these changes, the Project will have an adverse effect on aesthetics.

Turning to the second step of the test, as demonstrated by findings 68 through 70, the Project will not violate any clear, written community standards intended to preserve the aesthetics or scenic beauty of the area; the Petitioner has taken reasonably available mitigating steps to reduce the Project's visual and aesthetic impacts by proposing an aesthetic mitigation plan; and the Project will not offend the sensibilities of the average person. The proposed aesthetic mitigation plan will help restore the prior aesthetic conditions at the site and is subject to compliance with the requirements of Commission Rule 5.805.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend that the Commission conclude that the Project's aesthetic impact will not be unduly adverse and approve the Petitioner's aesthetic mitigation plan (identified in the record as Appendix A to exhibit RCJ-6), subject to the requirements of Commission Rule 5.805.

#### Historic Sites

71. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on historic sites. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

72. The Project area does not contain known archaeological sites or archaeologically sensitive areas. Smith pf. at 5.

73. There are no known above-ground historic resources in the Project area. Smith pf. at 5.

Rare and Irreplaceable Natural Areas

74. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on rare and irreplaceable natural areas because there are no rare and irreplaceable natural areas within the Project area. Smith pf. at 15.

**Necessary Wildlife Habitat and Endangered Species**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)(A)]

75. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on any endangered species or necessary wildlife habitat because neither are present in the Project area. Smith pf. at 15.

**Development Affecting Public Investments**

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(9)(K)]

76. The Project will not unnecessarily or unreasonably endanger any public or quasi-public investment in a facility, service, or lands, or materially jeopardize or interfere with the function, efficiency, or safety of, or the public's use or enjoyment of, or access to any such facility, service, or lands. Johnson pf. at 19.

**Public Health and Safety**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)]

77. The Project will not have any undue adverse effects on the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This finding is supported by the additional findings below.

78. The Project has been designed and will be constructed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code requirements. Johnson pf. at 17.

79. VELCO will adhere to prudent utility construction practices to ensure the safety of the public and adjoining landowners. Johnson pf. at 17.

**Primary Agricultural Soils**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)]

80. The Project will not have any undue adverse effects on primary agricultural soils as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001 because there are no mapped primary agricultural soils within the Project area. Smith pf. at 16.

**Consistency with Company's Least Cost Integrated Plan**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(6)]

81. As a transmission-only company, VELCO does not have a least-cost integrated resource plan. Johnson pf. at 19.

82. The Project is consistent with VELCO's 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan because it is a routine refurbishment project. Johnson pf. at 19.

**Compliance with Twenty-Year Electric Plan**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(7)]

83. The Project is consistent with the 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan approved by the Department under 30 V.S.A. § 202(f). 202(f) Determination.

**Waste-to-Energy Facility**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(9)]

84. The Project does not involve a waste-to-energy facility; therefore, this criterion is not applicable.

**Existing or Planned Transmission Facilities**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(10)]

85. The Project can be served economically by existing or planned transmission facilities without undue adverse effects on Vermont utilities or customers. This finding is supported by the additional finding below.

86. The Project is designed to enhance the existing utility system and to improve service to customers by permanently replacing deficient transmission equipment. Johnson pf. at 21.

**Woody Biomass Facilities**

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(11)]

87. The Project will not produce electric energy using woody biomass; therefore, this criterion is not applicable.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Based upon the evidence in the record, I recommend that the Commission conclude that the Project, subject to the conditions set forth herein:

(a) will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions, and the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies;

(b) will meet a need for present and future demand for service which could not otherwise be provided in a more cost-effective manner through energy conservation programs and measures and energy efficiency and load-management measures, including those developed pursuant to the provisions of subsection 209(d), section 218c, and subsection 218(b) of Title 30;

(c) will not adversely affect system stability and reliability;

(d) will result in an economic benefit to the State and its residents;

(e) will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, and public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d), impacts on primary agricultural soils as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001, and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K), and greenhouse gas impacts;

(f) is consistent with VELCO's 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan;

(g) is consistent with the *Vermont Twenty-Year Electric Plan*;

(h) does not involve a facility affecting or located on any segment of the waters of the State that has been designated as outstanding resource waters by the Secretary of Natural Resources;

(i) does not involve a waste-to-energy facility;


(j) can be served economically by existing or planned transmission facilities without undue adverse effect on Vermont utilities or customers;

(k) does not involve an in-state generation facility that produces electric energy using woody biomass.



This proposal for decision has not been circulated to the parties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 811 because it is not adverse to any party.

Date: April 3, 2025



Elizabeth Schilling, Esq.  
Hearing Officer

**V. ORDER**

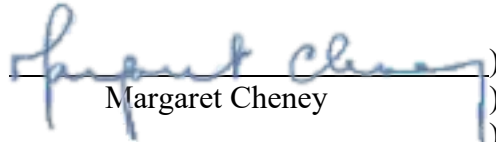
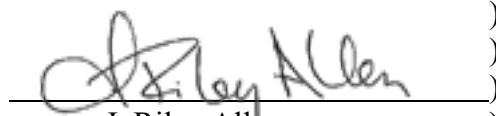
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

1. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Hearing Officer are adopted. All other findings proposed by parties, to the extent that they are inconsistent with this order, were considered and not adopted.

2. In accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, the replacement of Structure LCP-020 and removal of temporary Structures LCP-020 and LCP-021 on the VELCO K24-5 Duxbury Tap-Stowe Line in Waterbury, Vermont (the “Project”), proposed for construction and operation by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco LLC (the “CPG Holder”), will promote the general good of the State of Vermont pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, and a certificate of public good (“CPG”) to that effect will be issued in this matter.

3. As a condition of this order, the CPG Holder must comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 3rd day of April, 2025.

 _____ Margaret Cheney	)	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF VERMONT
	)	
 _____ J. Riley Allen	)	
	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: April 3, 2025

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Commission

*Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: [puc.clerk@vermont.gov](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov))*

*Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.*

PUC Case No. 24-3723-PET - SERVICE LIST

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