

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-1259-PET

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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 approval to install an advanced power flow controller at the VELCO Sandbar Station in Milton, Vermont	
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Entered: 01/09/2026

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD (“CPG”) ISSUED  
PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. SECTION 248**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) this day found and adjudged that the site preparation, construction, operation, and maintenance of an advanced power flow controller at the Sandbar Station in Milton, Vermont (the “Project”), by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco LLC (“CPG Holder”), in accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State, subject to the following conditions:

1. Site preparation, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project must be in accordance with the plans and evidence submitted in this proceeding. Any material deviation from these plans or a substantial change to the Project must be approved by the Commission. Failure to obtain advance approval from the Commission for a material deviation from the approved plans or a substantial change to the Project may result in the assessment of a penalty pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 247.

2. Before beginning site preparation, construction, operation, or maintenance of the Project, the CPG Holder must obtain all other necessary permits and approvals. Site preparation, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project must be in accordance with such permits and approvals, and with all other applicable regulations, including those of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”).

3. The CPG Holder must restrict construction activities and related deliveries for the Project to the hours between 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 activities or deliveries are allowed on

Sundays, state holidays, or federal holidays except where construction activities must be performed during required outages needed to maintain system reliability.

4. Before beginning site preparation, the CPG Holder must file with the Commission, the parties, and the Town of Milton a letter stating that it has fulfilled all pre-site preparation CPG conditions, and that it intends to begin site preparation for the Project.

5. Before operating the Project, the CPG Holder must file with the Commission, the parties, and the Town of Milton a letter confirming that it has fulfilled all pre-operation CPG conditions and that it intends to begin operation of the Project.

6. The CPG Holder must pay all invoices (if any) from any State agency that (a) are related to this proceeding and (b) are not still under review by the Commission.

7. This Certificate of Public Good may not be transferred without prior approval of the Commission.

8. The CPG Holder must comply with the Memorandum of Understanding between the CPG Holder and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (“AAFM”) (the “AAFM MOU”).

9. Tree grubbing required during Project construction in the Habitat Restoration Area will involve removal of tree stumps, woody debris, and roots to facilitate habitat restoration while minimizing Primary Agricultural Soils (“PAS”) disturbance and compaction. Tree stumps that are removed in this area will be shaken clean over the area from which they were removed. Stumps will either be chipped or ground up.

10. Neither wood in any form nor stones, dirt, nor other debris may be piled in areas of mapped PAS and outside of permanent impact areas after construction is complete.

11. Prior to beginning site preparation for the Project, the CPG Holder must pay the standard offsite mitigation fee as described in 10 V.S.A. § 6093(a) in the amount of \$18,127.57 for permanent PAS impacts. This fee must be paid to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. These funds will be applied to the preservation of PAS in the region of the Project site via a permanent conservation easement. If the CPG Holder does not make the payment by the end of 2026, the amount of the mitigation fee will be adjusted to reflect AAFM’s current per-acre mitigation amount for the geographic region in which the Project is located.

12. The CPG Holder must comply with the Memorandum of Understanding between the CPG Holder and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) (the “ANR MOU”).

13. Prior to any site preparation or construction of the Project, the CPG Holder must obtain a Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Stormwater Program. All Project activities must be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Vermont Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit.

14. Prior to demolition and removal of the existing residential structures shown on MOU Exhibit 1 and referenced in Jacob T. Reed’s prefiled testimony dated June 30, 2025, page 11, lines 6-7, the CPG Holder must have an inspection performed by a company qualified to perform inspections of buildings for the purpose of identifying asbestos, lead, and other hazardous materials, such as oil, solvents, lead paint, and gasoline. The CPG Holder must hire a company with requisite licenses and/or certifications to safely remove and dispose of all identified hazardous materials prior to demolition and removal of this structure. Disposal of all materials, including hazardous materials, must be done in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

15. Prior to demolition and removal of the existing residential structure shown on MOU Exhibit 1 and referenced in Jacob T. Reed’s prefiled testimony dated June 30, 2025, page 11, lines 6-7 and 19-22, the CPG Holder must have a presence/absence survey of the residential structures completed to confirm that no Little Brown Bats are present or roosting in the structure. The survey must be conducted by one or more person(s) who have been trained and approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (“FWD”). The CPG holder must provide a copy of the survey results to ANR for approval prior to demolition, which ANR will review and comment on within 10 business days of receipt of the survey results. If no comments are received after 10 days, the survey will be deemed approved by ANR.

16. To avoid impacts to listed bat species including the Little Brown Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat, and Tricolored Bat, tree cutting, limbing, and trimming will be limited to the period between November 1 and April 14. After initial tree clearing, isolated trees, or trees along the edge of clearing limits, that are within the Project area and that are less than or equal to 3-inches in diameter at breast height may be cut any time of year.

17. In order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to Canada Frostweed, the CPG Holder must, prior to beginning the construction phase of the Project within the two Canada Frostweed polygons, transfer the topsoil in this to the Habitat Creation Area in accordance with the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. If the soil transfer occurs during the growing season (approximately May 15 through October 15), all plants (if identifiable) must be transplanted to the Habitat Creation Area and watered during transplantation and weekly thereafter for not less than one month, if less than one inch of rain had fallen in the preceding week.

18. In order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the documented occurrence of Sweet Joe-Pye-weed, the CPG Holder must, prior to beginning site preparation or construction of the Project, have a qualified botanist demarcate the limits of the population and its associated 10-foot buffer and install a high visibility fence or ribbon around the demarcated population and buffer. No equipment may enter and fill may not be placed within this area.

19. The CPG Holder must comply with the Non-Native Invasive Species Monitoring and Control Plan for the Sandbar Station Project (exh. JTR-4) throughout the Project. Prior to the start of site preparation or construction, the CPG Holder must collect baseline data on Non-Native Invasive Species (“NNIS”) occurrence within 25 feet of all Rare Threatened and Endangered (“RTE”) populations within the Project area and provide all baseline data to ANR.

20. The CPG Holder must have a qualified botanist conduct all plant surveys, plant identifications, transplanting, and any follow-up monitoring required by these conditions.

21. Prior to commencement of site preparation or construction of the Project, all RTE plant populations not subject to soil harvesting must be clearly demarcated and surrounded with high visibility fencing. Signage, made of durable material, must be posted on the fencing, as well as along the access areas and work areas, indicating the presence of protected areas and directing crews to avoid the fenced areas. An environmental compliance inspector, who must have the requisite expertise and experience to identify rare plants, must supervise the installation of the fencing and signage.

22. Construction maps for the Project must include all RTE polygons not subject to soil harvesting and their associated buffers per the 2025 survey, as well as the Habitat Creation Area, the Habitat Restoration Area, and “Soil to Remain Disturbed Area” shown on ANR MOU Exhibit 1.

23. Prior to commencement of site preparation or construction of the Project, all work crew members must attend an on-site environmental training provided by an environmental compliance inspector, who must have the requisite expertise and experience to identify rare plants. The training must be approved by FWD and include best practices for avoiding rare plant impacts. Crews must also be instructed to avoid the rare plant areas, including the Habitat Creation Area and the Habitat Restoration Area. Following the initial start of construction, any new construction crew members must be trained prior to starting work at the site.

24. Upon delivery of construction equipment, all equipment must be free of observable organic matter, seeds, soils, and other potential propagules, to avoid introduction of NNIS. If equipment does not meet this condition, it must be sent off-site for cleaning and subsequent re-inspection.

25. In the event that this Station is decommissioned in the future, the CPG Holder must follow its Environmental Management Plan for the Decommissioning and Reclamation of Electrical Facilities in effect at the time of decommissioning. As part of this decommissioning the CPG Holder must work collaboratively with ANR to restore as much pre-existing sandplain habitat as possible and to promote the regeneration of RTE plants which may include the following: removal of gravel and concrete and minimizing areas of seeding and mulching in restored sandplain habitat, and avoiding introduction of non-native sand.

26. Prior to the start of site preparation or construction, the CPG Holder must obtain a Vermont Threatened & Endangered Species Taking Permit for impacts to the state-threatened Houghton's Flatsedge, a listed plant species in Vermont. All Project activities must be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of any Takings Permit in effect at the time of the activity.

27. The CPG Holder must apply for renewal of the Takings Permit for the state-threatened Houghton's Flatsedge every 5-years (or the applicable duration of a general permit if one is available for this project) for no less than 20 years. After 20 years, the CPG Holder agrees to continue to work collaboratively with ANR and in good faith to promote the health and vigor of the Houghton's Flatsedge populations on site, to the extent that they existed prior to the Project. For this effort, the CPG holder and ANR agree to evaluate the current status of the plant species, historical data, successful and unsuccessful management techniques, areas of successful

recruitment and retention, existing and future development areas, and other factors likely to impact the success of the species at the site. Upon completion of the evaluation, if the Houghton's Flatsedge is still listed as a threatened species in Vermont, is not extirpated from the site, and if further management is necessary, the CPG Holder must develop and implement a mutually agreeable plan to promote the continued health and vigor of the population.

28. The CPG Holder must allow ANR, through its authorized representatives, to enter upon and inspect the Project area upon reasonable notice, in a reasonable manner, and at reasonable times during ordinary business hours to determine compliance with the above conditions. For safety reasons, ANRs representatives must check in upon arrival and be accompanied by the CPG Holder's personnel in all Project areas.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 9th day of January, 2026.

*Edward McNamara* )  
Edward McNamara ) PUBLIC UTILITY  
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*Margaret Cheney* )  
Margaret Cheney ) COMMISSION  
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*J. Riley Allen* )  
J. Riley Allen ) OF VERMONT

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: January 9, 2026

Attest: Holly L. Anderson  
Clerk of the Commission

PUC Case No. 25-1259-PET - SERVICE LIST

Parties:

Debra L. Bouffard, Esq. Sheehey Furlong & Behm 30 Main Street, 6th Floor P.O. Box 66 Burlington, VT 05402-0066 <a href="mailto:dbouffard@sheeheyvt.com">dbouffard@sheeheyvt.com</a>	(for Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.)
Debra L. Bouffard, Esq. Sheehey Furlong & Behm 30 Main Street, 6th Floor P.O. Box 66 Burlington, VT 05402-0066 <a href="mailto:dbouffard@sheeheyvt.com">dbouffard@sheeheyvt.com</a>	(for Vermont Transco LLC)
Caroline Daniels Vermont Department of Public Service 112 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620 <a href="mailto:caroline.daniels@vermont.gov">caroline.daniels@vermont.gov</a>	(for Vermont Department of Public Service)
Willy Jane Patry Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets 116 State St Montpelier, VT 05620-2901 <a href="mailto:willyjane.patry@vermont.gov">willyjane.patry@vermont.gov</a>	(for Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets)
Charles Peel, Esq. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources 1 National Life Drive Davis 2 Montpelier, VT 05620-3901 <a href="mailto:Charles.Peel@vermont.gov">Charles.Peel@vermont.gov</a>	(for Vermont Agency of Natural Resources)