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State of Vermont
Public Service Board

MEMORANDUM

MAY 20 2010

To: Parties in PSB Docket No. 7081 - VELCO IRP Investigation
Deena Frankel, VELCO, for the Vermont System Planning Committee

From: Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board *sh*

Re: VSPC Evaluation of Docket 7081 Planning Structure

Date: May 17, 2010

On December 23, 2009, the Vermont System Planning Committee ("VSPC") filed an "Evaluation of the Docket 7081 Planning Structure" ("Evaluation Report"). The Evaluation Report included a number of recommendations, including the following:

Public member cost allocation methodology: Request that the Public Service Board ["Board"] modify the cost allocation methodology for public member expenses to be consistent with the allocation of other VSPC operating expenses.¹

The Evaluation Report did not specifically request the Board to act on this recommendation. However, several months have passed without any formal request for Board action. Consequently, the Board asks the VSPC to file, by June 15, 2010, a statement clarifying whether it requests that the Board implement this recommendation. Any responses to the VSPC statement should be filed by June 30, 2010.

The Evaluation Report also included a recommendation that Docket No. 7081 remain open "to provide a continuing mechanism to resolve disputes related to CEII [Critical Energy Infrastructure Information] that arise in the VSPC context and to address future recommendations for process changes that may emerge from further assessment

¹Evaluation Report at 18.

conducted by the VSPC."² It is not the Board's practice to keep dockets open for extended periods after a final order has been issued, unless there are likely to be future compliance filings that must be reviewed and approved. With respect to Docket No. 7081, Board staff are particularly concerned that, because the docket has been conducted as a contested-case proceeding, keeping it open may preclude Board representatives from participating in regional discussions of certain transmission-planning issues (potentially including issues related to comparable treatment of non-transmission alternatives). Therefore, the VSPC and the parties are requested to submit comments by June 15, 2010, addressing whether Docket No. 7081 should remain open in light of this concern, and whether the docket could be closed and an alternative procedure or procedures developed to address CEII issues and future VSPC process changes. The VSPC and parties are encouraged to work collaboratively in preparing these comments. Any reply comments may be filed by June 30, 2010.

²*Id.* at 17.