

VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

March 10, 2011

Mrs. Susan Hudson
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05620

RE: VSPC Response to PSB Memo of February 17, 2011

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments from the Vermont System Planning Committee in response to a Public Service Board memo of February 17, 2011. The memo provided the opportunity to comment on Hervey Scudder's letter to the PSB expressing interest in appointment as an Alternate Public Member of the VSPC representing the interests of residential consumers.¹

Public participation is an important element of the VSPC's effectiveness. The sitting public members have continually raised important questions and helped keep the transmission planning process focused on the objectives for which the Docket 7081 process was established.

As the Board is aware, it has been difficult to recruit public members to serve on the VSPC. Currently there is no alternate member representing the interests of either residential or commercial consumers. The reasons for this challenge, and possible strategies to address it, were discussed in the evaluation of the Docket 7081 process submitted by the VSPC in December 2009.

The Public Participation Subcommittee has devoted considerable discussion and time to strategies for recruitment. Mr. Scudder's interest came at least in part from the subcommittee's outreach efforts. Mr. Scudder has attended two VSPC meetings and continues to demonstrate his active interest.

At its March 9, 2011, quarterly meeting, the VSPC authorized this letter conveying its support for full public participation in the process established by the Docket 7081 MOU. The Committee encourages any appropriate Board action to ensure a full complement of public members available to participate in quarterly meetings, subcommittees and other VSPC matters.

Sincerely,


Deena L. Frankel, Secretary *KAF*
Vermont System Planning Committee

¹ The Board's memo requested comment by March 3, 2011. On February 25, the VSPC requested an extension for the comment deadline to March 11 to enable the committee to approve comments at its regular quarterly meeting, March 9, 2011.