

Dear Vermont business leader:

You are likely aware that transmission costs comprise an increasing portion of our electric rates. The Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) is a body established by Public Service Board order and charged with finding ways to avoid constructing transmission solutions where cost-effective alternatives can meet Vermont's needs. The committee is a collaboration among representatives of state government, utilities, and the general public.

As Chair of VSPC's Public Participation subcommittee, I am writing to seek your assistance. The Vermont Public Service Board, which appoints the VSPC's membership, is seeking qualified nominations for the Alternate Public Member position representing the interests of Commercial and Industrial customers.

I am seeking the help of leaders in the Vermont business community such as yourself to ensure that the perspective of Commercial and Industrial customers is fully represented at the VSPC, particularly in light of the significant energy costs this sector incurs. You can help by soliciting from your colleagues one or more letters of interest in filling the open Alternate Public Member position.

Although the current opening is for an Alternate Member, this representative plays an important role in collaboration with the primary business representative, and is welcome to attend and actively participate at all VSPC meetings, which are open to the public.

The VSPC meets one day a quarter at locations that rotate around the state. The VSPC's various subcommittees meet between quarterly meetings and include: Public Participation, Geographic Targeting (addressing energy efficiency and generation as alternatives to transmission), Forecasting (addressing the load forecasts that drive grid planning), and Coordinating.

VSPC materials such as agendas and supporting information are publicly-available and can be found at www.vermontspc.com. Additional background and historical information regarding the VSPC can also be found at that site.

The Vermont Public Service Board will accept expressions of interest until close of business on August 16, 2013. As noted by the Public Service Board (see attached memorandum, though note that the original deadline of July 15 in the memo has been extended to August 16), expressions of interest "should describe the applicant's qualifications to represent commercial and industrial consumers' interests, and explain the applicant's reasons for wanting to serve on the VSPC."

On behalf of the VSPC's Public Participation Subcommittee, thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this request or need more information.

Best wishes,

George Twigg, Chair

VSPC Public Participation Subcommittee