

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

In re Vermont System Planning Committee 2016 )  
Reliability Plan and Energy Efficiency Geotargeting )  
Recommendations )

Order entered: 3/3/2017

**ORDER RE: VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE 2016 RELIABILITY PLAN AND  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY GEOTARGETING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On October 24, 2016, the Vermont System Planning Committee<sup>1</sup> (“VSPC”) filed recommendations for the geographic targeting of energy efficiency (“geotargeting”) as well as the need for reliability plans in accordance with the Screening Framework and Guidelines for Implementation of 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(d)(2). In this Order, the Vermont Public Service Board (“Board”) adopts the VSPC’s recommendations.

**II. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On March 1, 2013, the Board issued an Order implementing significant changes to the standard-offer program as required under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8005a and 8006a.<sup>2</sup> The March 1 Order established the Screening Framework and Guidelines, pursuant to Section 8005a(d)(2), that were designed to provide potential standard-offer plant developers with adequate information, at least annually, regarding transmission-constrained areas in which renewable generation having

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1. The Vermont System Planning Committee consists of Vermont energy stakeholders, including electric distribution and transmission utilities, public representatives, the Department of Public Service, the energy efficiency utilities, and the standard-offer facilitator. The VSPC was created for the purpose of facilitating least-cost integrated resource planning for Vermont's transmission system. *Investigation into Least-Cost Integrated Resource Planning for Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.'s Transmission System*, Docket 7081, Order of 6/20/07. As part of its planning efforts, the VSPC has been tasked with making recommendations to the Board regarding transmission- and distribution-constrained areas of Vermont where targeted energy efficiency or distributed generation projects could be beneficial.

2. Docket No. 7873/7874, Order dated March 1, 2013 (the “March 1 Order”).

particular characteristics may provide “sufficient benefits” to the operation and management of the electric grid. As required by Section 8005a(d)(2) and as implemented in the Screening Framework and Guidelines, projects deemed to provide sufficient benefits do not count toward the 127.5 MW cumulative capacity amount of the standard-offer program.

On January 24, 2014, the Board approved changes to the VSPC processes, such that the VSPC would annually make concurrent recommendations to the Board regarding areas that require reliability plans,<sup>3</sup> as well as any recommendations to continue or discontinue energy efficiency geotargeting in an area.<sup>4</sup>

On October 24, 2016, the VSPC filed its annual recommendations.

On November 23, 2016, the Board requested comments on the VSPC Recommendations. No comments addressing the VSPC Recommendations have been filed.

### **III. THE VSPC RECOMMENDATIONS**

The VSPC makes three recommendations: (1) There are no newly identified constrained areas that “screen in” using the applicable screening tools for the potential to be resolved with non-transmission alternatives (“NTAs”); (2) no regulatory action is required at this time related to geographically targeted energy efficiency, as there are no areas currently targeted; and (3) based upon Green Mountain Power Corporation’s (“GMP”) Hinesburg reliability plan, filed September 30, 2016, the Hinesburg reliability issue cannot be resolved with new geographically targeted energy efficiency or the solicitation of standard-offer resources outside the annual cap.

#### **1. No New Reliability Plans**

The VSPC represents that there are no newly identified constrained areas that “screen in” using the applicable screening tools for the potential to be resolved with non-transmission alternatives.

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3. Reliability plans are defined in the Screening Framework and Guidelines as least-cost plans to resolve a reliability constraint that include consideration of the use of new standard-offer plants.

4. *In re: VSPC Geographic Targeting Process Improvement Analysis*, EEU-2013-11, Order of 1/24/14.

**2. No Current Geotargeting**

The VSPC states that no area is currently the focus of energy efficiency geographic targeting. Accordingly, the VSPC recommends that no regulatory action be taken at this time.

**3. No New Areas Warrant Geotargeting**

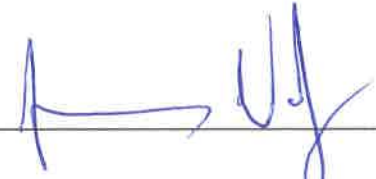


The VSPC states that based upon GMP's Hinesburg reliability plan, filed September 30, 2016, the Hinesburg reliability issue cannot be resolved with new geographically targeted energy efficiency nor the solicitation of standard-offer resources outside the annual cap.

**IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

After due consideration, and in the absence of any objection, we adopt the VSPC's recommendations.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 3rd day of March, 2017.

  
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PUBLIC SERVICE  
BOARD  
OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: March 3, 2017

ATTEST: Judith C. Whitney  
Clerk of the Board

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

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