



March 13, 2017

Ms. Judith Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05702

RE: Docket 8875 – Investigation into the possibility of adding an additional seat representing the interests of towns and regional planning organizations to the Vermont System Planning Committee

Dear Ms. Whitney:

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Board of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) to comment on the possibility of adding an additional seat representing the interests of towns and regional planning organizations to the Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC). The WRC has previously written in support of this possibility, and we support the proposed amendment to the Docket 7081 Memorandum of Understanding, which would add “one person who shall be appointed to articulate the interests of regional and municipal planning entities” to the VSPC. We also appreciate your extension of the deadline to accommodate our comment as we were not included on the original distribution of the proposed amendment.

We would like to comment on the VSPC recommendations dated January 31, 2017. Included in those recommendations was the suggestion that VSPC have a representative of one of the three regional planning commissions that took part in recent pilot energy planning studies. At this point all regional planning commissions are well on their way to having their draft regional energy plans going to public hearing and subsequent adoption. For that reason we would encourage the Board and the VSPC to not limit consideration to the three pilot regional planning commissions as each has engaged in an extensive regional energy planning process. Furthermore some, including the WRC, have had substantial engagement in energy generation and transmission project review.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Company". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Company,
Executive Director