

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 18A-3736

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2018 Vermont System Planning Committee reliability plan and energy efficiency geotargeting recommendations	
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Order entered: 02/14/2019

**ORDER RE: 2018 RELIABILITY PLAN AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GEOTARGETING  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On October 29, 2018, the Vermont System Planning Committee (“VSPC”)<sup>1</sup> filed recommendations on its geographic targeting of energy efficiency (“geotargeting”) efforts and any reliability plans identified by the Screening Framework and Guidelines developed pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(d)(2). In this Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) adopts the VSPC’s recommendations.

**II. BACKGROUND**

In 2013, the Commission implemented significant changes to the standard-offer program pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 8005a and 8006a.<sup>2</sup> Section 8005a(d)(2) specifies that standard-offer projects deemed to provide “sufficient benefits” in constrained areas do not count toward the 127.5 MW cumulative capacity limit of the standard-offer program. The March 1 Order established a Screening Framework and Guidelines for identifying constrained areas where renewable generation projects could provide the benefits contemplated by Section 8005a(d)(2).<sup>3</sup> The VSPC makes annual recommendations to the Commission based on the analyses applying

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<sup>1</sup> The VSPC consists of Vermont energy stakeholders, including distribution utilities and the transmission utility Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc., public representatives, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”), the energy efficiency utilities, and the Standard Offer Facilitator. The VSPC was created to facilitate 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 Commission regarding transmission- and distribution-constrained areas of Vermont where targeted energy efficiency or distributed generation projects could be beneficial.

<sup>2</sup> Dockets 7873 and 7874, Order of 3/1/13 (the “March 1 Order”).

<sup>3</sup> See March 1 Order at 44-51. The Commission revised the Screening Framework and Guidelines in 2014 to address distribution and sub-transmission constraints. See Dockets 7873 and 7874, Order of 2/20/14. The revised Screening Framework and Guidelines are an attachment to the 2/20/14 Order.

the screening framework that the VSPC receives from the utilities. The VSPC's recommendations address any new constrained areas identified in the screening process, including reliability plans for addressing the constraints,<sup>4</sup> as well as any action required for new or existing energy-efficiency geotargeting efforts.<sup>5</sup>

### **III. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On October 29, 2018, the VSPC filed its annual recommendations with regard to constrained areas based on the utilities' application of the processes and screening tools established in the above orders.

On January 11, 2019, the Commission requested comments on the VSPC's recommendations.

On January 24, 2019, the Department filed comments stating that it supports the adoption of the VSPC's recommendations.

### **IV. THE VSPC RECOMMENDATIONS**

The VSPC's 2018 recommendations state the following: (1) the analysis performed by the utilities using the applicable screening tools identified no new constrained areas with the potential to be resolved with non-transmission alternatives; (2) no regulatory action addressing existing geotargeted energy-efficiency measures is needed because no areas are currently geotargeted; and (3) no new geotargeted energy-efficiency measures are needed because the applicable screening framework did not identify any new constrained areas.

The VSPC states that no utility identified any constrained areas with the potential to be resolved with non-transmission alternatives using the applicable screening tools. For that reason, the VSPC recommends against any new reliability plans.

The VSPC also states that no areas are currently the focus of geotargeted energy-efficiency measures, and no new areas have been identified by the screening process. The VSPC

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<sup>4</sup> Reliability plans are defined in the revised screening framework and guidelines as least-cost plans to resolve a reliability constraint that include consideration of the use of new standard-offer projects. *See* revised Screening Framework and Guidelines ¶ 3(c)(ii).

<sup>5</sup> The VSPC's recommendations address potential non-transmission alternative, or "non-wires," solutions to constraints in the electric grid, including new renewable generation and targeted energy-efficiency efforts.

explains that the only area of the state currently subject to a reliability plan is Green Mountain Power Corporation's Hinesburg area<sup>6</sup> and that the Commission has already accepted the VSPC's recommendation that Hinesburg's reliability issues cannot reasonably be resolved with geotargeting or soliciting standard-offer projects.<sup>7</sup>

Because no area is currently the focus of geotargeting and because no new areas have been identified for geotargeting, the VSPC recommends against any regulatory action at this time.

#### V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

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

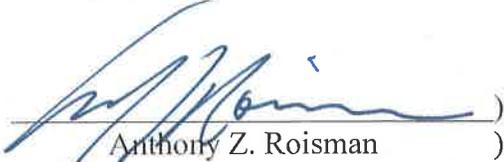
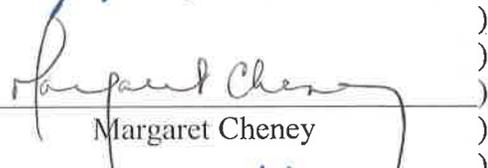
**SO ORDERED.**

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<sup>6</sup> The Hinesburg Area Reliability Plan, dated October 1, 2016, is available on the "Library" page of the VSPC's website. One of the conclusions of the Hinesburg Area Reliability Plan is that the reliability issues would be best addressed by constructing a battery energy storage system. We note that the Commission has recently approved the construction of a battery storage facility in Hinesburg. *See Petition of VESIVEC LLC for two certificates of public good*, Case No. 18-3088-PET, Order of 2/6/19.

<sup>7</sup> *See In re Vermont System Planning Committee 2016 Reliability Plan and Energy Efficiency Geotargeting Recommendations*, Order of 3/3/2017; *In re Vermont System Planning Committee reliability plan and energy efficiency geotargeting recommendations*, Case No. 17-4966-PET, Order of 1/10/18.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 14th day of February, 2019.

	)	
Anthony Z. Roisman	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
	)	
	)	COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney	)	
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
Sarah Hofmann	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: February 14, 2019

Attest:   
Clerk of the Commission

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

*Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.*

PUC Case No. 18A-3736 - SERVICE LIST

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