

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

PSB Docket No. _____

Petition of Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.)
(VEC) pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 for a)
Certificate of Public Good authorizing VEC to:)
(1) decommission VEC's existing Alburgh)
Substation ("Existing Substation") located at 149)
Summit Road, Alburgh, Vermont; (2) construct a)
new substation approximately one mile north)
of the Existing Substation near 512 Route 2)
in Alburgh, Vermont ("New Substation"); and (3))
install 46 kV and distribution line extensions to)
connect the New Substation to existing VEC lines)

PETITION

Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. (VEC), by its undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Petition to the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont (Board) for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) under and pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, as follows:

1. VEC is a company as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201 and holds a CPG issued under 30 V.S.A. § 231.
2. VEC's offices are located at 42 Wescom Road, Johnson, Vermont.
3. VEC presently owns and operates an electric power distribution substation, circa late 1960's, located just off Route 2 at 149 Summit Road in the town of Alburgh ("Existing Substation"). This substation normally serves approximately 2,989 VEC consumer-members in the towns of Alburgh, Isle La Motte, North Hero, and Swanton. The Existing Substation may also be used to serve consumers in several adjacent towns when maintenance is required or during outage contingencies at VEC's South Hero Substation.

South Hero Substation serves approximately 2,944 consumer-members in the towns of Grand Isle, South Hero, and North Hero.

4. The Existing Substation suffers from two primary deficiencies: (1) aged equipment that is at the end of its reliable life expectancy; and (2) unsafe worker conditions due to the proximity of the Existing Substation to the road and the need to improve worker clearances inside the substation.

5. To resolve these problems, VEC proposes to:

—remove the Existing Substation, including the fence;

—build a new substation in a new location approximately 1 mile North off Route 2 adjacent to the existing 46 kV transmission line with a base rating of 10,000 kVA with fans off, 14,000 kVA with fans on (“New Substation”);

—install an adequate secondary oil containment system, new ground grid system, adequate work lighting, and substation monitoring at the New Substation;

—install a new gravel access road;

—install new utility right-of-way approximately 750 feet long and 50 feet wide to accommodate a new 46 kV transmission line spur approximately 750 feet over to the New Substation site situated adjacent to Route 2 along with one new distribution line;

—extend the remaining two distribution circuits out to Route 2 to connect to the existing distribution circuits; and

—remove approximately 10 transmission poles.

We refer to these upgrades together as the “Project.”

6. VEC hopes to have the new facility in service by October, 2015.

7. The estimated total Project cost is \$1,500,000.

8. The proposed Project meets the criteria established by 30 V.S.A. § 248, including the environmental criteria incorporated from Title 10 of Vermont Statutes Annotated pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5), and hence warrants that the Board make the findings requisite to the issuance of a Certificate of Public Good.
9. VEC identified the adjoining landowners by using the certified grand list as it existed no more than sixty days prior to the date on which notice was provided and has attached that list to this Petition. VEC has complied with Board Rule 5.402(B) by notifying the adjoining property owners identified on the attached list. The Alburgh grand list was certified on September 10, 2014.
10. In support of this Petition, VEC submits prefiled testimony and exhibits sponsored by the following witnesses:

Witnesses

Subject

Kris Smith

Describes the Project and explains the Project's compliance with the 30 V.S.A. § 248 criteria, other than environmental criteria. Mr. Smith does address use of natural resources and greenhouse gas impacts.

Adam Crary

Describes the Project's compliance with the environmental criteria in 30 V.S.A. § 248 and addresses VEC's proposed decommissioning and site remediation plan for the Existing Substation.

WHEREFORE, VEC respectfully requests this Board to:

- A. Hold a prehearing conference as expeditiously as possible to establish a schedule for testimony and hearings.
- B. Hold hearings as the Board determines are necessary.

C. Find that the Project as described in this Petition and the prefiled testimony, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont and issue a Certificate of Public Good to that effect.

Take such other and further action as the Board deems necessary to resolve this Petition.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 31st day of October, 2014.

VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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