

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7873

Programmatic Changes to the )  
Standard-Offer Program )

Docket 7874

Development of Standard-Offer Prices )

Order entered: 6/8/2012

**ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATIONS  
AND NOTICE OF WORKSHOP**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 8002 through 8005a, the Public Service Board ("Board") hereby opens investigations into programmatic changes to the standard-offer program and the development of standard-offer prices for qualifying renewable generation under the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development ("SPEED") program.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On May 18, 2012, Public Act 170 became law.<sup>1</sup> Act 170 mandates significant changes to the standard-offer program, including:

- (1) Increasing the available capacity of the program;
- (2) Modifying the requirements to enter into the standard-offer program;
- (3) Requiring the Board to allocate available program capacity among different technology categories;
- (4) Requiring the Board to develop a process to identify plants that provide sufficient benefit to operation and management of the grid that such plants should be exempted from the program cap;

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1. Public Act 170 (2012, Vt., Adj. Sess.). The text of Act 170 can be found at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/DOCS/2012/ACTS/ACT170.PDF>.

- (5) Requiring the Board to develop a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Credit mechanism for certain customer(s);
- (6) Requiring the Board to establish prices for existing hydroelectric facilities;
- (7) Requiring the Board to develop prices based on an avoided cost methodology; and
- (8) Allowing the Board to examine market-based pricing methodology.

We are appointing Board staff to initiate proceedings to address the requirements of Act 170. These proceedings will occur in two separate dockets: Docket No. 7873 will address the programmatic changes to the standard-offer program and Docket No. 7874 will address the establishment of the new pricing methodologies. Both of these dockets will be conducted as non-contested case proceedings.

Board staff will hold an initial workshop to begin discussion of these issues and determine the process for reviewing and deciding these issues. This workshop will be held on **June 22, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.** in the House Chamber at the Vermont State House, in Montpelier, Vermont.

In order to effectively manage these dockets, the Board is establishing new e-mail lists for each docket. **The Board will no longer utilize existing e-mail lists for these proceedings.** Any interested party may contact the Clerk of the Board at [psb.clerk@state.vt.us](mailto:psb.clerk@state.vt.us) to request to be added to one or both of these lists.

### **III. ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that:

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Sections 8002 through 8005a, investigations are opened into programmatic changes to the standard-offer program (Docket No. 7873), and the development of standard-offer prices for SPEED resources (Docket No. 7874).
2. Board staff shall conduct a Workshop on Friday, June 22, 2012, commencing at 9:30 A.M., in the House Chamber at the Vermont State House, 115 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 8th day of June, 2012.

s/ James Volz )

) PUBLIC SERVICE

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s/ David C. Coen )

) BOARD

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) OF VERMONT

s/ John D. Burke )

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: June 8, 2012

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson  
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@state.vt.us)*