

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7873

Programmatic Changes to the Standard-Offer Program)

and Docket No. 7874

Investigation into the Establishment of Standard-Offer)

Prices under the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise)

Development ("SPEED") Program)

Order entered: 2/20/2014

ORDER RE MODIFICATIONS TO SCREENING FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES

I. Introduction

On March 1, 2013, the Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") issued an Order in this proceeding addressing programmatic changes to the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development ("SPEED") standard-offer program, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 8005a and 8006a. In the March 1 Order, the Board established a Screening Framework and Guidelines, pursuant to Section 8005a(d)(2), that will provide potential developers with adequate information, at least annually, regarding transmission-constrained areas in which renewable generation having particular characteristics may provide sufficient benefit to the operation and management of the electric grid to warrant being treated outside the cap. In today's Order, we modify the Screening Framework and Guidelines to now also address potential sub-transmission and distribution-constrained areas.

II. Procedural History

In the March 1, 2013, Order, the Board remanded Docket No. 7873 to Board staff in order to conduct such additional proceedings as are necessary to expand for future years the scope of eligible grid constraints to include distribution.

In an August 8, 2013, memorandum, the Vermont System Planning Committee ("VSPC"), or one of its members, was requested to file a proposal for a screening framework and guidelines that would address distribution-level constraints.

On September 27, 2013, the VSPC filed a proposal for incorporating distribution constraints into the screening framework and guidelines previously adopted by the Board.

On October 8, 2013, a workshop was convened to discuss the VSPC's proposal.

On November 5, 2013, a memorandum was issued providing the opportunity for comments addressing the changes to the Screening Framework and Guidelines proposed by the VSPC, as well as additional clarifying edits proposed by Board staff.

On November 19, 2013, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") and Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP") each filed comments addressing the modifications proposed by the VSPC and Board staff. The Department stated that it supports the proposed modifications, while GMP stated that it does not object to the proposed modifications.

No other comments have been received.

III. Discussion and Conclusion

The modifications to the Screening Framework and Guidelines proposed by the VSPC and further modified by Board staff are intended to: (1) advance the full implementation of Section 8005a(d)(2) by now considering both sub-transmission- and distribution-constrained areas; (2) clarify the applicable screening tool to be used in determining whether a constraint has a reasonable likelihood of being cost-effectively addressed by non-transmission alternatives ("NTAs"), including SPEED standard-offer plants; and (3) identify additional information that must be provided by Vermont utilities when filing Reliability Plans, as defined in the Screening Framework and Guidelines. In addition, a number of non-substantive modifications have been proposed. We conclude that the proposed substantive modifications are consistent with the full implementation requirements of Section 8005a(d)(2), and that the proposed clarifying modifications will assist all interested persons in utilizing the Screening Framework and Guidelines. Therefore, the proposed modifications are hereby adopted. A copy of the Screening Framework and Guidelines, as modified pursuant to this Order, is attached.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 20th day of February 2014.

s/James Volz)

) PUBLIC SERVICE

s/John D. Burke)

) BOARD

s/Margaret Cheney)

) OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: February 20, 2014

ATTEST: s/Judith C. Whitney
Deputy 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)