

NVDA Wind Study Committee – Meeting #5 – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, 2013 – Barton Town Office

In attendance: Jim Greenwood (NVDA – Committee Chair), Dave Snedeker (NVDA – Committee Staff), Farley Brown (Craftsbury- Committee), Robert Croteau (Barton - Committee), Peter Rodin (NVDA Board and UTG Representative), Mark Whitworth (Newark – Committee), Joel Cope (NVDA Board and Brighton Representative). Guests: Anne Margolis and Aaron Kisicki from the VT Public Service Department

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. by D. Snedeker. Welcome and introductions made.

D. Snedeker discussed: NVDA Board Resolution recommending suspension of industrial-scale wind for further study; formation of NVDA Study Committee and development of outline; invitations to experienced speakers/representatives by Committee to inform study. Snedeker asked the guests to speak on PSD roles, responsibilities, projects to-date, etc.

Anne Margolis (PSD, Renewable Energy Development Manager) discussed her past experience with the Clean Energy Development Fund and her role to promote community-owned energy projects.

Aaron Kisicki (PSD, Public Advocacy Division) discussed his experience practicing before the PSB representing the public interest. ‘Public Interest’ is on a statewide level.

PSD is the state agency charged with enforcement and monitoring projects that have been issued CPGs.

When asked how Economic Cost is factored into ‘public good’, A. Margolis indicated that the 248 process looks at a project’s economic cost as well as its economic benefit to the state as some of the factors affecting the overall public good of a project.

The PSB has typically required in-state generation facilities to enter into PPAs with VT utilities.

A. Margolis:

- provided the Committee with a copy of the New England Wind Integration Study that was done for ISO New England. This study looked at wind integration scenarios and operational impacts.
- indicated that there are companies in the U.S. looking at wind energy storage. This includes short – term storage and longer-term (diurnal) storage. None of these technologies are cost-effective for VT projects in the near-term.
- presented the recently released Siting Commission Report. Implementation will likely begin through legislation and rulemaking.
- indicated there are also discussions at PSD about the VT Comprehensive Energy Plan and working to turn requirements into something less vague. There was also mention of Act 170 (CEP) and a Study Committee that is being led by Asa Hopkins (PSD) – there will be ‘stakeholder’ committee meetings to respond to Study Committee findings.

The question was asked if PSD is assessing whether technologies actually exist to implement the goals of the CEP (state energy plan). A. Margolis - The CEP technology chapters, which discuss the benefits and challenges of current technologies and policies as well as the potential for game-changing technology advances (on the demand as well as the supply sides, and across energy sectors)

PSD was asked at what point in time will PSD say “let’s wait on new projects and measure/assess where we are to date?” A. Kisicki indicated that PSD will use new information and lessons learned from other projects to inform recommendations on new or proposed projects.

PSD was asked how town votes for specific projects are viewed by the Department. A. Kisicki indicated that the PSD looks at what the local plan may say, as well as the amount of local support for a project.

PSD was asked about the specific aspects of a generation project PSD focuses on the most, given that ANR has a role in looking at the environmental and natural resource impacts. A. Kisicki indicated the PSD will look at: Town Plan, local voting efforts, engineering, economic and finance aspects, project planning in relation to the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan. Public Advocacy division looks at all of the Section 248 criteria.

The Public Service Board makes the official decision on an application’s ‘completeness’, although the PSD reviews the application initially.

PSD has had difficulty responding to issues related to health impacts and noise impacts.

The Committee had asked for some follow-up information on the Act 170 work; PSD asks that we bear with them for just a little while longer – the middle of June – when they expect the RAP report to be available, they will issue an RFI, and start convening stakeholder meetings, including a meeting with designees from the RPCs or alternatively via VAPDA. Additionally, anyone can respond to the RFI. Later (Aug/Sept) we hope to do some public hearings. The outcome will be a study that evaluates policies and pathways for achieving state energy goals. All of this work will help PSD to get started on the next iteration of the CEP (new plans are required every 6 years going forward). In terms of other states’ work in the vein of VT’s CEP, PSD points to CT’s new comprehensive energy document. Particular items that NVDA might want to start mulling over are how to keep vehicle miles traveled low, how to incorporate electric vehicle infrastructure in downtowns, and how to make progress on thermal efficiency.]

Next meeting date set for 6:30 p.m. May 29, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Minutes by D. Snedeker