



RECEIVED
8/17/16

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
August 11, 2016

Rutland City Planning Commission
1 Strongs Avenue
PO Box 969
Rutland City, VT 05702

Re: Petition of Green Mountain Power for a Certificate of Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 authorizing installation and upgrade of electric transmission facilities in Pittsford (including Florence), Proctor, West Rutland, Rutland Town, and Rutland City, Vermont (“Rutland Area Reliability Improvement Project”)

45-Day Advance Notice Package

Dear Rutland City Planning Commission:

This letter is to notify you that Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”) is preparing to file a Petition with the Vermont Public Service Board (“Board”) for approval to install and upgrade electric transmission facilities in the towns of Pittsford (including Florence), Proctor, West Rutland, Rutland Town, and Rutland City, Vermont, in order to improve reliability for GMP customers in the greater Rutland area (hereinafter referred to as the “Rutland Area Reliability Improvement Project” or “Project”).

We anticipate filing the Petition with the Board on September 26, 2016, and are providing the following Project overview and related information in this 45-day advance notice package in accordance with Board Rule 5.402 and 30 V.S.A. § 248 (“Section 248”).

I. Project – Overall Description

The Project will involve five components. First, upgrades are planned to several existing GMP 46kV transmission lines, including the replacement of conductor wires and pole replacements, along with the addition of a bypass switch as follows: (a) line and pole replacement of approximately 7.22 miles between the Florence Substation and GMP’s Marble Street Substation, (b) line and pole replacement of approximately 0.56 miles between GMP’s Marble Street Substation and GMP’s West Rutland Transmission Substation, (c) line and pole replacement of approximately 0.94 miles between GMP’s Lalor Avenue Substation and GMP’s West Rutland Substation, and (d) the addition of one 46kV motor operated loadbreak (MOLB) bypass switch outside of the Marble Street substation in West Rutland.

Second, the Project includes upgrades at GMP's West Rutland Substation, which consists of the addition of two circuit breakers and replacement of two existing breakers with associated controls. Third, upgrades will be made at GMP's Lalor Avenue Substation in Rutland City, consisting of the addition of one new breaker and the replacement of two existing breakers and associated control building upgrades. Fourth, upgrades are proposed at the GMP Marble Street Substation to replace two existing gang operated airbreak (GOAB) switches with two 46kV MOLB switches. The fifth component of the Project is the addition of two 46kV MOLB switches, along with the replacement of the existing GOAB switch with a 46kV MOLB switch at the Evergreen Tap in Rutland City.

All of upgrades at the three substations included in this Project involve the replacement and/or addition of equipment within the existing fenced substation yards, along with the replacement of certain fence sections within their current locations. No changes are proposed to the substation fence locations or substation access roads. Enclosed are maps and construction plans, showing the location and design of all Project components, along with a list of the enclosed exhibits.

II. Project Need

The Project is needed to improve reliability in the greater Rutland area. More specifically, it is needed in order to avoid potential undervoltage and equipment overloading issues in the area, resulting from the loss of one of the four area VELCO transformers. In connection with planning this Project, GMP considered a number of alternatives, including new generation sources, new voltage-support devices, an additional transformer at the VELCO North Rutland substation, a new substation in South Rutland and an expansion of the existing VELCO substation in West Rutland. The proposed Project was selected over other alternatives considered because it represents the best combination of effectiveness in terms of both cost and addressing the reliability concerns in the area. The proposed Project described above was reviewed by the Vermont System Planning Committee, a Vermont electric transmission system planning group created by Board Order. This Project also was described in the Rutland Area Reliability Plan filed with the Board on April 1, 2015.

III. Project Impact

GMP has hired Vanasse, Hangen, & Brustlin ("VHB") of Burlington to perform a field assessment of natural resource features, and TRC Environmental of Lowell, Massachusetts to conduct an Archeological Resource Assessment of all areas proposed for construction or vehicular access. GMP will secure all required approvals from the Vermont Wetlands Office, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies as appropriate prior to construction. Materials and equipment will be transported to construction sites by truck over Interstate 89 and state and local highways.

In terms of visual impact, the Project will not introduce new elements to the context of its surroundings, as it will involve reconstruction of existing transmission lines and existing substation facilities. The Project elements will not be shocking or offensive, and will not violate any written community standard. To the extent that the Project does change the context of its surroundings, changes will be reduced and mitigated through the use of existing rights of way

and substation facilities, along with the placement of new pole structures in alignment with existing structures where possible. Therefore, GMP believes that there will be no undue adverse impact on aesthetics or the scenic and natural beauty of the area. A more detailed aesthetic analysis will be provided with the petition to be filed with the Board.

IV. Additional Information

As noted above, GMP has enclosed maps and construction plans, showing the location and design of all Project components (see attached exhibit list). The information contained in this package is intended to provide a general understanding of the Project, but is subject to change based on further analysis and the requirements of applicable permits.

Before beginning work on the Project, GMP must obtain a Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”) from the Board under Section 248. Before issuing a CPG, the Board must find, among other things, that the Project “will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions, the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies, and the land conservation measures contained in the plan of any affected municipality.”

Section 248(f) requires that municipal and regional planning commissions make recommendations, if any, to the Board at least seven (7) days prior to the filing of the petition (i.e., by September 19, 2016) with the Board. Commissions may also provide revised recommendations within 45 days of the date on which the petition is filed with the Board if the petition contains new or more detailed information not included in this notice. Please note that the Board has issued a publication entitled, "Guide to the Vermont Public Service Board's Section 248 Process," which is available through the Board's website: <http://psb.vermont.gov/statutesrulesandguidelines/guidelines#248>.

If you have any questions about the Project, we will be happy to answer them, and should the Commission wish to make any recommendations about the Project, GMP will be pleased to address them. If you would like to contact me by phone, my number is 802-770-3336.

Sincerely,



John Fiske
Manager of Engineering

Cc: Clerk, Vermont Public Service Board
Geoff Commons, Esq., Vermont Department of Public Service
Jennifer Duggan, Esq., Vermont Agency of Natural Resources