

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 24-____-PET

Petition of Vermont Transco LLC, and Vermont)
Electric Power Company, Inc. (collectively,)
“VELCO”), for a certificate of public good pursuant)
to 30 V.S.A. § 248 authorizing upgrades to VELCO’s)
existing Windsor Substation, located in Windsor,)
Vermont)

PREFILED TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS OF MICHAEL J. BUSCHER
FOR VERMONT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC. AND VERMONT TRANSCO LLC

Summary of testimony: Mr. Buscher testifies about the Project’s aesthetics and why the Project will not have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics or the scenic beauty of the surrounding area per 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5).

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit PET-MJB-1	Resume of Michael J. Buscher
Exhibit PET-MJB-2	Aesthetics Analysis Report
Exhibit PET-MJB-2 Appendices	Aesthetics Analysis Report Appendices
	Appendix A – Viewshed Maps
	Appendix B – Photographic Inventory
	Appendix C – Cross Sections
	Appendix D – Regional and Town Plan Excerpts

1 Q1. Please state your name, occupation, and business address.

2 A1. My name is Michael J. Buscher. I am a professional landscape architect and owner
3 of T. J. Boyle Associates, LLC, Landscape Architecture and Planning located at 301
4 College Street in Burlington, Vermont.

5 Q2. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.

6 A2. My background and professional experience are presented in my resume which is
7 offered with my testimony as Exhibit PET-MJB-1.

8 Q3. What is the purpose of your testimony?

9 A3. My testimony presents the Aesthetics Analysis Report prepared for VELCO by T.J.
10 Boyle Associates and explains why the Windsor Substation Project will not have an
11 undue adverse impact on aesthetics or the scenic beauty of the surrounding area
12 per 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5).

13 Q4. Please identify Exhibits PET-MJB-2 and PET-MJB-2 Appendices.

14 A4. Exhibit PET-MJB-2 is the Aesthetics Analysis Report that TJ Boyle Associates
15 prepared under my direct supervision for the Windsor Substation Project. The
16 Report analyzes the Project's aesthetics and potential aesthetic impact utilizing the
17 so-called Quechee Test that the Public Utility Commission applies to determine
18 whether an electric transmission facility will have an undue adverse aesthetic

1 impact under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5). Exhibit PET-MJB-2 Appendices contains the
2 Report's appendices:

- 3 • Appendix A - Appendix A consists of three viewshed maps. Map 1 is an aerial
4 context map. Map 2 is a terrain viewshed map. Map 3 is a vegetated
5 viewshed map.
- 6 • Appendix B – Appendix B is a photographic inventory of various viewpoints of
7 the Project site.
- 8 • Appendix C – Appendix C provides cross sections of the substation in
9 relation to surrounding vegetation.
- 10 • Appendix D – Appendix D are excerpts from the 2022 Mt. Ascutney Regional
11 Plan and Energy Plan and the Windsor Town Plan that are relevant to the
12 aesthetics analysis under the *Quechee Test*.

13 Q5. Please summarize your findings and conclusions regarding the Projects anticipated
14 aesthetic impact.

15 A5. The Windsor Substation Project was found to have no adverse aesthetic impact due
16 because it has little off-site visibility from the surrounding area. The upgrades to the
17 facility do not materially change the substation's aesthetics.

18 Although the Project was determined to have no adverse aesthetic impact, it
19 was reviewed under the second prong of the *Quechee Test* to evaluate whether any
20 adverse aesthetic impact would be undue because the Project (1) violates a clear

1 written community standard intended to preserve the aesthetics and scenic beauty
2 of the area; (2) lacks adequate mitigation that a reasonable person would employ to
3 improve the Project's harmony with its surroundings; or (3) is shocking and
4 offensive to the average person. As explained in the Report, the Project's aesthetic
5 impact cannot be considered unduly adverse under these standards. First, neither
6 the Mt. Ascutney Regional Plan nor the Windsor Town Plan include clear written
7 community standards applicable to the Project and its location. Second, the Project
8 plans reflect appropriate mitigation measures because the Project is an upgrade to
9 an existing facility and is sited in a location with little off-site visibility. Finally, the
10 Project is not shocking or offensive to the average person.

11 Q6. Will the Project have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics or the scenic beauty of
12 the area?

13 A6. No, it will not. Please refer to the complete Aesthetics Analysis Report and
14 accompanying Appendices offered as Exhibit PET-MJB-2 and PET-MJB-2
15 Appendices.

16 **Conclusion and Declaration**

17 Q7. Does this conclude your testimony?

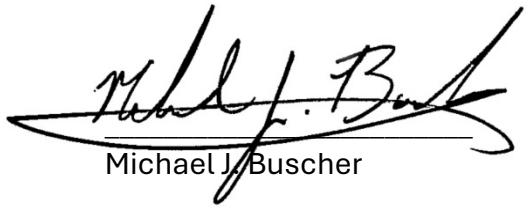
18 A7. Yes.

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DECLARATION OF MICHAEL J. BUSCHER

I declare that the testimony and exhibits that I have sponsored are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and were prepared by me or under my direct supervision. I understand that if the above statement is false, I may be subject to sanctions by the Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 30.



Michael J. Buscher