

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 )  
)

PETITION FOR SECTION 248 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco LLC (together referred to as VELCO or Petitioners), by and through the undersigned counsel, petition the Vermont Public Utility Commission, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 and Commission Rule 5.400, for a certificate of public good to construct the Windsor Substation Project, a reconstruction of VELCO’s existing high-voltage transmission substation located on Hunt Road in Windsor, Vermont. In support of this Petition, VELCO states as follows:

1. VELCO is a company as defined by 30 V.S.A. § 201 and is subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 203.
2. VELCO’s principal place of business is 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road in Rutland, Vermont.
3. VELCO owns, operates, and plans for Vermont’s high-voltage electric transmission system and is responsible for maintaining the system’s safety, security, and reliability as part of the regional bulk electric power system.

4. VELCO owns and operates a 115 kV/46kV substation located at 488 Hunt Road in Windsor, Vermont that is connected to Green Mountain Power's (GMP) 46kV sub-transmission system to enable GMP to serve retail electric customers.

5. VELCO performed a condition assessment of the Windsor Substation, which was commissioned in 1978, to identify deficiencies in substation equipment and to evaluate the facility's condition against current VELCO standards (Windsor Substation Conditions Assessment).

6. The Windsor Substation Conditions Assessment identified several deficiencies in the facility, the most significant of which are the control building and 115 kV circuit switcher. The Windsor Substation Project is intended to remedy the deficiencies identified in the Windsor Substation Conditions Assessment.

7. Energy efficiency and load management actions cannot resolve the problems identified in the Windsor Substation Condition Assessment.

8. In June 2023, the Vermont System Planning Committee's Geographic Targeting Subcommittee determined that the deficiencies identified in the Windsor Substation Conditions Assessment screened out of the Committee's non-transmission alternatives analysis (NTA), so no NTA was performed for the Project.

9. The Project's primary components for which VELCO is seeking approval in this Petition are the following:

- Replace and relocate the existing 20' X 28' control building with a 32' X 62' control building that can accommodate a new protection and control

system, redundant AC & DC station services, communication equipment, security systems, and new bathroom facilities.

- Replace and expand the existing perimeter fence to accommodate the new control building and improve access around the energized equipment.
  - Replace the existing 115 kV circuit switcher with a circuit breaker that meets VELCO's current design standards.
  - Reconstruct and widen the driveway to 20 feet with a turnaround.
  - Relocate approximately 620 feet of driveway as well as the entryway onto Hunt Road.
  - Improve site drainage.
  - Perform tree clearing to accommodate the temporary infrastructure, temporary construction support area, expanded substation and improvements, and the relocated driveway entrance.
  - Replace the existing 46kV dead-end structure on the south side of the substation just outside the fence near the entrance gate to accommodate temporary substation equipment, the expansion of the substation yard for clearance to energized equipment, and the vehicle turnaround area.
10. The Project's estimated cost is \$21,293,023, including contingency.
  11. On January 22, 2024, VELCO provided advance notice of the Project in accordance with the applicable Commission rule then in effect (Rule 5.402, eff. 9/1/2017).

The notice was also sent to adjoining landowners, uploaded to ePUC, and made available on VELCO's website.

12. The list of adjoining landowners was compiled using Vermont Center for Geographic Information online Parcel Viewer data and verified with the Town of Windsor Assessor's Office by email on December 18, 2024.

13. The Project, which is described more fully in the testimony and exhibits filed with this Petition, will promote the general good of Vermont and satisfies each of the review criteria set out in Section 248(b).

14. This Petition is accompanied by an index, organized according to the criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248(b), that identifies by witness and page number the prefiled evidence that addresses each review criterion, including the incorporated subcriteria of Section 248(b)(5).

15. The Project is scheduled to start in early 2026 and would be constructed between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays. No construction would take place on Sundays, or state or federal holidays, except for Bennington Battle Day.

16. VELCO seeks permission to conduct construction related activities on Bennington Battle Day (August 16) given the short summer construction season and the fact that the State holiday is not a paid day off for many of the construction workers that are expected to be working on the Project.

17. VELCO also requests permission to perform construction activities outside the normal construction hours when required for outages needed to maintain electric system reliability, as well as activities associated with filling the power transformer with oil.

WHEREFORE, VELCO respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Issue a determination that the Petition is complete;
- B. Set a date for a scheduling conference as soon as practicable;
- C. Issue findings and conclusions consistent with VELCO's prefiled evidence that the Project satisfies the applicable Section 248(b) criteria and will promote the general good of the State per 30 V.S.A. § 248(a);
- D. Issue a certificate of public good for the Project that allows construction on Bennington Battle Day and during necessary outages; and
- E. Grant any further relief that the Commission deems just and proper.

By:   
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Dated: December 20, 2024