



PSB Approves Sheffield Wind Project

Wind Power Looming In WEC's Future

Washington Electric Cooperative's faith in the UPC-Vermont Wind electric-generation project, proposed for higher elevations in Sheffield, appears to have been well-founded. On Wednesday, August 8, 2007, the 16-turbine, 40-megawatt-capacity project became the first commercial-scale wind-power proposal to win approval from the Vermont Public Service Board since Green Mountain Power's Searsburg project in 1997. The UPC project, however, represents a new generation of wind power in Vermont, with technology more advanced and production goals more ambitious than the 11-tower, 6-MW Searburg facility.

"We are very pleased that the PSB approved the project," said WEC General Manager Avram Patt. "It's a very thoughtfully written order, in which they clearly have taken into consideration the concerns expressed by opponents and have answered those questions. I think it sets a precedent of how the board will look at future wind projects."

The permit that the PSB issues (or withholds, for projects not approved) is called a Certificate of Public Good (CPG). The board's August 8 press release said, "To grant such a CPG,

the Board must find, based on a formal process and on specific standards in Vermont law, that the project promotes the general good of the state." The release described the information-gathering process it had undertaken in this case: testimony from 35 witnesses over 10 days of evidentiary hearings; testimony from more than 100 witnesses taken at three public hearings and from hundreds more people in written comments, and a site visit. In all, the board pored over "thousands of pages" of transcribed testimony and documentation.

"In approving the project," the press release said, the PSB concluded "that wind generation facilities such as the one proposed by UPC can provide a number of benefits to Vermont and the region, such as fuel diversity, energy independence, reduced air emissions, and increased tax revenue." It also cited job creation, and noted that increasing the state's harvest of electric power from renewable resources was "a matter of policy which has been adopted by the Vermont Legislature."

As with most regulatory approvals, the CPG included conditions that

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Evidence considered during the Public Service Board's deliberations included simulations of the visual effect of the proposed wind towers. These depict the view, present (top) and future (bottom), from Berry Hill Road in Sheffield. From many perspectives, the simulated wind tower images are too small for replication on these pages, so those displayed here and on page 8 are among the most dramatic. All images are used courtesy of UPC-Vermont Wind. For further images, and details on the Sheffield wind project, go to www.sheffieldwind.com



Aesthetics And Wind Power

The Vermont Public Service Board's approval on August 8 of a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) for the 16-turbine wind-power project proposed in Sheffield by UPC-Vermont Wind is no guarantee that Washington Electric Co-op will soon be able to add wind-produced electricity to its power portfolio. But obtaining that approval constituted a major victory and step forward for the project.

Perhaps even more significant, it indicated that there probably is a future for wind energy in Vermont.

Many had grown skeptical about that. After the board's rejection in July 2006 of the four-turbine East Mountain

Demonstration Project proposed in East Haven, some wind-power proponents wondered whether any such project could surmount the regulatory hurdles and organized opposition of people who object entirely to turbines on Vermont's ridgelines.

"If not [here], where?," said the manager of the Lyndonville Electric Department, which planned to purchase power from that modest proposal.

Well, in Sheffield, perhaps.

"The East Haven project got turned down last year for reasons that were very specific to that project and that proposal," said Avram Patt, WEC

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Inside

2007 Capital Credits program.

The time for WEC to distribute annual equity payments to Co-op members is approaching. Details of this year's program, and a request to help us reach former members who qualify, are on page 4.

The Department of Public Service WANTS YOU!

Vermont's DPS is launching a 'Public Engagement Process' to bring Vermonters up to speed on the critical energy decisions the state will face in the near future, so that citizens can participate in the choices. For details of the 'Process,' and how, when, and where you can get involved, see page 6.

Think 'conservation' and 'efficiency' are the same thing?

We'd all better think again, or we'll continue wasting energy through



Two new employees have joined the Co-op's staff in management positions. Meet Cheryl Willette and Susan Golden on page 3.

'efficiency' and feeling good about it. Column from Paul Grover (Kilowatt Technologies), page 6.

With a decade of progress under the Co-op's belt, the Board of Directors begins again to map out WEC's long-term future. See President's Report, page 2.

Washington Electric Cooperative

East Montpelier, VT 05651

President's Report

It Doesn't Happen By Itself Co-op Board Renewing Vision of WEC's Future

By Barry Bernstein

As we feel the change in the air and see the leaves starting to take on their fall colors, your Board of Directors at Washington Electric Co-op is casting our eyes on the future direction of WEC.

On September 18 the Board gathered for a daylong retreat to begin a renewing of our vision, looking at where we want our electric cooperative to be in the next 10 years and beyond. The last time we did this was more than a decade ago; at that time we set forth a vision, and added amendments to it along the way, that brought us to disengagement from Vermont Yankee and nuclear power, a goal that we accomplished in January of 2002.

Furthermore, it led to our making greater use of affordable, renewable energy in our power supply, including our first landfill-methane contract with a source in Connecticut. Eventually, we continued our vision by opening the Co-op's own trash-to-electricity plant in Coventry, Vermont, in 2005 – a major source of non-fossil-fuel-produced energy

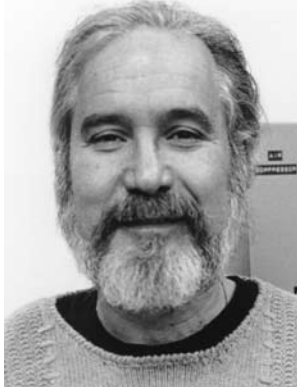
for our members. That earlier vision, or plan, for our Co-op still guides us, with a continuation of our strong commitment to energy efficiency and to improved reliability on our lines.

The visioning process we are currently undertaking will be guided by the major changes occurring in the world as, even at Washington Electric Co-op, we feel the impact from the effects of global warming and climate change, the rapidly expanding economies of China, India, Brazil and other developing nations, and the greater demand for natural resources (i.e., fossil fuels and minerals),

even while their supply diminishes – resulting in higher prices.

Co-op Country may be only a small piece of the globe, but we want to position ourselves, through the decisions we make, to be a positive force, and to assist and support our membership in using your – and the Co-op's – resources in an efficient and effective way.

Many WEC members may remember the struggle and debate our Co-op was engaged in during the mid 1970s through the early '90s, when some of the



While our past efforts have put us in a good position, it is important to have a vision to guide us so we can continue to build on our strong foundation.

membership became concerned about the direction the Co-op was focused on at that time – the Vermont Yankee and Seabrook nuclear plants as WEC's major power sources – and had an alternative vision of renewables and energy efficiency.

That debate began to bring about positive change. In 1985 our Wrightsville hydro plant went on line, and in the early '90s we began an aggressive drive to work with members on improving energy efficiency in their homes and businesses. That effort included helping members pay for switching from electric heat and hot water to more economical fuel sources.

The '90s also marked a significant increase in dollars spent on right-of-way (ROW) line clearing, one of the most critical aspects of any electric utility's services because it protects against unnecessary power outages. ROW management had been largely neglected during the 1980s. Because of investments and obligations to the construction of Seabrook – obligations we were later able

to curtail – the '80s was also a period of multiple rate increases.

In 2000, your Board adopted the goal of moving toward acquiring long-term, renewable, economical power supply, generated from sources as close to home as possible. Our Coventry plant was a result of that effort, and now provides more than half of the kilowatt-hours of power that our members use.

More recently, WEC also committed to buying power from the UPC-Vermont Wind project in Sheffield. And with the recent Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) decision approving the project, we expect to see wind power as part of our power supply in the future.

Forward from here

While our past efforts have put us in a good position, it is important to have a vision to guide us, so we can continue to build on our strong foundation. As we move forward in this process we will keep you informed, and hopefully engage many of you and get your ideas.

We welcome hearing from you at any time, but more formally that process will start with our two annual area members' meetings, which are planned for October 16 and 18, in Tunbridge and Calais respectively. For folks who live in those areas, we look forward to seeing you soon!



Co-op Currents

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WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.
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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Deborah Brown, 802-223-5245.

WEC To Host A Weekday Open House At Coventry Plant

Washington Electric Cooperative will hold an Open House at its Coventry, Vermont, landfill gas electric-generating station on Thursday, November 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advance notice is not necessary to attend this event. The generating station is located at the site of the NEWS landfill, outside Coventry village.

The November 8 event will be the second Open House at the facility this year. WEC hosted visitors at the station for three hours on Saturday, June 23, when approximately 60 people came for a tour of the generating station, casual refreshments, and an opportunity to discuss landfill gas (methane) -generated power. However, many people who work in the energy business, such as utility employees, regulators, and others, have mentioned that they preferred not to visit on a weekend; they would prefer a weekday, and asked Washington Electric to arrange an Open House at such a time, if possible.

The weekday Open House would also be a time when school classes or other groups can attend. If a request is made ahead of time by such groups, the Co-op might be able to extend the hours of the Open House to accommodate them.

MARKETPLACE

For Sale: Wanted: Electric dump trailer. About 4,000 lbs. capacity or less, in very good condition and working. Call me at 802-479-0255. Romeo Isabelle; Williamstown

Changing Faces at the Co-op

Finance and Member Services Departments Receive New Directors

Washington Electric Co-op has hired two new employees to fill important management positions. Susan Golden of Plainfield, the Co-op's new Supervisor of Member Services, started at WEC on July 16. Cheryl Willette, of Roxbury, is now WEC's Director of Finance. Both are Spaulding High School graduates and bring solid records of achievement to the Co-op, Golden having worked for a number of local credit unions and Willette coming from the telecommunications industry, which, like electric utilities, is regulated by the Vermont Public Service Board.

"Coincidentally, both of these positions became open at about the same time," says WEC General Manager Avram Patt. "Susan replaces Tammy Clark, who left WEC earlier this year after 15 years in our Member Services Department. In Cheryl's case, she is taking over the management of our Finance Department from Linda Nelson. Linda made a personal decision that she would prefer to step aside from that position, but she's staying on at the Co-op in the Finance Department, which we are very happy about. Linda has been with us for a long time and is a very popular and valued employee."

When the positions came open, Patt said, they attracted many qualified applicants.

"But we really felt fortunate that Susan and Cheryl applied. They're both very skilled and competent, and we feel they've got the personal qualities that make them good managers and supervisors for our employees."

Susan Golden

Credit unions are a form of cooperatives, being nonprofit, customer-owned businesses with member-elected boards of directors – and Susan Golden has been associated with credit unions since she entered the workforce after high school. From 1980 to 1992 she worked for the Central Vermont Teachers' Credit Union (which later changed its name to Members' Advantage). She then became a consumer loan officer and financial counselor for the Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU), from 1992 to 1997. Next, she worked right around the corner from WEC at NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, where she was East Montpelier branch manager. At NorthCountry, Susan also worked with business clients, including Washington Electric. In 1999 she became manager of Central Vermont Medical Center Credit Union, which primarily serves hospital employees at CVMC (the Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin).

Credit unions, of course, are financial institutions rather than service utilities.

"But the duties aren't as different as



Susan Golden, WEC's new Supervisor of Member Services, worked exclusively for credit unions – which are financial co-ops – before coming to Washington Electric in July.

you might think," says Susan. "Wherever I've been employed, it's always been about serving the members and doing the best both for them and for the organization itself."

As WEC Member Services Director she oversees the department responsible for getting Co-op members' bills out to them on time, ensuring that the bills are accurate, and responding to members' questions or concerns about billing and other services. It's her staff that members encounter when they walk in the door or speak to initially when they call the Co-op, so in some ways they are the face of Washington Electric.

WEC has been contemplating certain changes in its billing practices, and Susan immediately stepped into those deliberations and has been researching the

possibilities. These include changing to "cycle billing" – breaking the membership into groups for their billing and payment schedules, so that not all 10,000 WEC members would get their bills at the same time, as they do now. The potential benefit would be to even out the work flow, and the revenue flow, for the Co-op.

E-billing (electronic billing and payment), credit card payments, and payment-by-phone are other services under consideration. Susan has been in contact with electric co-ops where these practices are in place, to gather information that will help the board and management decide which, if any, would work for WEC and its membership.

Susan lives with her husband, Tim Golden, and their two sons on the Lower Road in Plainfield. Tim also works in the

Spaulding High School graduates and bring solid records of achievement to the Co-op.



credit union field, for United Community Credit Union. And they are WEC members.

"We're pretty much a co-op family, all around," says Susan.

Cheryl Willette


Congratulations are in order for WEC's new Director of Finance. When she took the job with Washington Electric in July, she was Cheryl Wendel. In the short time she's been with the Co-op, she has gotten married!

Cheryl graduated from Norwich University with a degree in accounting, and went to work for TDS Telecom in Northfield. She worked there for eighteen-and-a-half years, leaving TDS for her new Co-op position in July.

"I was really just looking for a change," says Cheryl. "Coming to Washington Electric fit nicely with that goal – having a change in my work, and also having some continuity. Telephony and electric utilities are both regulated industries under the Public Service Board."

Accounting itself is regulated, too, Cheryl explained. The country's 900-plus rural electric co-ops receive operational loans from the federal Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and are governed by the Uniform System of Accounts for Electric Cooperatives. A similar system governs the telephone industry, Cheryl notes, "So there's a comfort level there."

As Director of Finance, Cheryl oversees and monitors all aspects of WEC's revenues and expenditures, from wholesale power purchases, to WEC's borrowing and repayments to RUS, to paying contractors like the right-of-way maintenance crews hired by WEC. She'll be in regular contact with Treasurer Don Douglas, with whom she will prepare the treasurer's annual report to the membership in May.

Having gotten somewhat comfortable in their new surroundings after a couple of months on the job, Cheryl Willette and Susan Golden appear to be excellent additions to the Co-op's staff. And both are mindful that, in the Co-op world, your real employers are the membership. 

Cheryl Willette comes to Washington Electric after more than 18 years with a local telecommunications company. She is the Co-op's new Finance Director.

WEC 2007 Equity Distribution Plan

Co-op Seeks Former Members For Capital Credit Refunds

Washington Electric Cooperative is preparing to issue capital credit refund checks to current and former members, as authorized by WEC's Board of Directors. Under the 2007 Equity Distribution Plan, capital credits will be returned to eligible people who bought power from the consumer-owned electric utility during the following three years: 1987, 1989, and 2006. Safeguarding the Co-op's financial stability, the Board of Directors has targeted a total amount of \$275,000 for distributions in 2007.

Capital credits are returned to Co-op members (customers) for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. Capital credits are a way of dividing those surplus revenues – called margins – among the member-owners. The amount of a member's refund is based on the size of the Co-op's margins in the years in question, and how much electricity that member purchased. Each co-op member has a capital credit account – which is a bookkeeping entry managed on an annual basis by the Cooperative – in his/her name.

This year \$123,000 of the money earmarked for the 2007 Equity Distribution Plan will go to members from the year 1987, when WEC's margins totaled \$255,386. Last year's distribution plan (2006) included enough money to begin retiring credits from 1987 after completing distributions for 1986. Approximately half of the 1987 credits were addressed at that time; this year's allocation will complete the retirements for 1987. (When distributions for a given year are allocated *in part*, it does not mean that some members are paid and others aren't; rather, each qualified member is paid proportionally.)

Another \$46,000 will go toward capital credit retirements for 1989, when margins totaled \$269,975. The plan skips over 1988 because no allocations to the capital credit accounts were made that year.

The remaining \$100,000 in the plan will address capital credits for 2006. WEC's margins last year totaled \$336,639; the money allocated for capital credit refunds in the current plan amounts to just under 30 percent of that total.

For former members, no longer with the Co-op, refunds of \$20 or more will be paid by check; if an amount of less than \$20 remains in the former member's account, a check will be issued once the Co-op has received a properly executed authorization form (contact WEC for details).

Current members who are eligible for refunds based on their 1987 and/or their 1989 and/or their 2006 payments will receive their refund as a credit on their electric bill, regardless of the amount.

Members and former members will be given the opportunity to contribute their 2007 capital credit refund to the Community Fund administered by Washington Electric Cooperative. Funds contributed by members in 2007 will be combined with any remaining 2006 contributions and with the contributions from members who in 2006 and prior years elected to donate all future capital credit refunds to the WEC Community Fund. The total contributions will be used to make donations via the Fund in 2007, per WEC Policy 6. A year-end report on the Community Fund donations will be published in *Co-op Currents*, and whenever possible and appropriate, through other means.

All individual retirements will be reduced by any uncollectible or delinquent amount(s) owed to the Cooperative, as permitted by the WEC Bylaws. No early retirements will be made to the estates of deceased members. No distribution will be made in the year 2007 for construction capital investments credited to patrons' accounts from contributions-in-aid-of construction for new power line extensions. No distribution will be made to patrons who purchased and paid for renewable energy credits (RECs) in 2006.

WEC may impose a \$10 annual service charge on all patronage (capital credit) accounts for years in which the credits have been retired and went unclaimed. This service charge can be applied to unclaimed accounts annually, until the balance in those accounts is \$0.

Earlier this summer WEC sent out Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible former members, using the person's last-known address. Listed below are the names of people or accounts whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. WEC is asking friends, acquaintances and relatives of the people listed here to contact those potential recipients or their rightful heirs, and have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly at 802-223-5245, or toll-free at 1-800-932-5245.

WEC will issue this year's capital credit refunds in November 2007.

A
A & T Transmission/Robert Clarke
Abakan, Frank
Abbiati, Stuart M
Adamant Credit Union
Aicher, Mark A
Alden, George P
Aldrich, Georgia
Aldrighetti, Louis J
Amato, Gerard R
Anderson, Julia
Andrews, Daryll & Kim
Andrews, Kathleen
Angeli, Anthony & Annette
Anspach, Denny S & Polly D
Anthony, William
Arndt, Walter T Jr.
Arnold, Ian T & Pamela J
Asbeck, Sungbok K
Ashford, Clifford
Ashley, Thelma
Atkinson, Elliott R
Atwater, Tim
Auld, John H

B
Baack, Gary L
Badeau, Hector P & Susan H
Bair, Estate of Samuel
Baldwin, Nelson
Barnaby, James B & Kimberly A
Barnett, Dorothy K
Barnett, V. & T. Cerasoli & H. Wald & M. Griggs
Barnocky, Stephen W.
Barrows, Michael
Bassett, Paula & Harold W II
Bayley, Anna R
Beadle, Rubie A
Beane, Marion
Beardsworth, Rhonda
Beauchene, Mary A
Beaupre, Ronald R & Donna J.
Beaver Meadow Hill Farm
Beckler, Minnie W
Bedard, Todd & Julie Thompson
Beebe, Charles C Jr.
Beecher, George
Beier, Deborah J
Belcher, Jonathan N & Kate
Bell, Peggy
Bellemare, Susan A
Bellemare, Susan A

Bello, Donna & Gary
Bent, Gordon A & Cheryl A
Bent, Robert & Jacqueline A Hughes
Bishop, Clara
Bishop, Dolloff & Barbara Euson
Bisson, Roland Jr.
Blackwell, Lee T & Laura M. Schlivek
Blair, Duane & Kelly
Blair, Robert J
Blais, Raymond A.
Blanchard, Beverly
Blanchard, Robert
Blanchette, Norman W
Blay, Donna
Blittersdorf, Jeffery E
Blow, Paul J
Blue Flame Gas c/o Paul Carpenter
Boisvert, Robert & Catherine
Bombardier, Timothy J & Donna M
Bond, Lillian
Boulanger, Claude & Madeline
Bourdeau, Estate of J.
Bowell, Erlene M.
Bowen, Jacqueline L.
Bowen, Ruth
Boyle, Stacey R & Ember F
Bradford, Susan J
Brechtling Florence
Bresett, Claire L
Bresett, Timothy L
Brigham, Marshall
Brochu, James K
Brolin, Ruth
Brooks, David
Brooks, Karen
Brooks, Valerie
Brown, Dale & Judith H
Brown, Daniel G & Joan S
Brown, David
Brown, Fleda
Brown, Philip F
Brown, Raymond & Donna L.
Brownell, Lauren L
Bryan, Wayne C
Bryant, David F & Edna F
Buck, Arthur D
Buckley, Charles Jr.
Bunce, Harold S & Patricia
Burbo, Charles E & Jean E
Burdick Louise S
Burnham, Ellen
Burton, Rima

Bussino, Marion
Butler, Daniel E
Buxton, William

C
Cade, Linda
Cameron, Sarah
Campbell, Judith E
Cano, Victor
Cantwell, Richard
Caron, Charles F
Carrier, Agnes A
Carrig, Blaise & Leslie
Carrington, Arthur J & Lynnetta L
Carruth, Philip W
Casey, George
Cathrew, Ralph S & Priscilla C.
Catlin, G Peter
Ceplikas, Alison P
Ceppetelli, Ronald & Ellen
Chamberlin, David P
Champany, Irene
Champany, Sydney & Mary
Chapin, Gary J & Sonia Lee
Chaples, William J
Chaplin, Carl & Marion
Chartier, Edward J. Estate of
Chateauvert, Paul
Chipman, Stanley J & Beverly A
Choen Charitable Trust,
David & Gertrude
Christensen, Christen Jr.
Christie, Margaret
Cianciola, David P & Kerry
Ciurleo, Christine & Domenick
Claffin, Kathryn
Clark, Jr., Charles & Ann O.
Clark, Neal R & Marie L.
Clark, Susan
Coburn, David & Lisa
Coburn, Donald A Jr. & Constance
Cochran, Barbara
Cofske, Harvey J & Natalie C
Colburn, Judith P
Coleman, Wilgar
Collins, William & Patricia
Condit, Gloria A
Congdon, John H
Connors, Paul C. & Pamela A.
Converse, Joseph
Cooke, Dane W
Cordaro, Nell

Counter, Dorothy B
Couture, Matthew & Catherine A Keenan
Covey, Elyse
Craig, Ken & Elizabeth Tonn
Craig, Pamela G. & Terry W. Lund
Cressey, Estate of Earl
Cross, Mary S.
Cross, Maurice W
Cullen, Joan
Cummings Halleck & Pamela L
Curtis, Alan
Curtis, Alan
Cutler, David

D
Dailey, Estate of Bessie
Daily, Rory M & Sunny B
Daniels, Steven A
Davis, Ernest E & Theresa
Davis, Lorena
Davis, William D & Judy B
Davulis, James J.
DeBard, Dorothy E.
Decola, Barry & M Kelley
DeForge, Steven
Demingware, Cora
Desilets, Thomas
Dexter, Robert
Dexter, Robert R
Dickinson, C F
Dickinson, Girdon & Tami J
Diggins, Martin J
Dimick, George A Sr. & Elsie
Dimick, Vince
Doherty, Eugene
Donahue Russ W & Linda
Doubleday, Elsa
Dowd, Blanche M
Driscoll, Peter M
Drury, John
Duggan, Rita C.
Dukette, Paul
Dunbar, Bessie B
Dunbar, Lucille B
Duncklee, Norman/Mable
Duncklee Estat
Durgan, Guy O
Dutcher, Marguerite
Dux, Thomas J
Duxbury Camp Ground c/o Leta Berno
Dwinell, Joanna R
Dwyer, Helen D.

E
Eaton, Kevin
Edson, Edward A
Eldred, Allan c/o Marcia Bayle
Emerson, Betty
Emerson, Lawrence
Emerson, Orin O
Emerson, Russell
Emery, Crawford D & Louise B
Emery, Luvia
Emery, Vena S
Eniti, Anita T
Ennis, Estate of John
Ennis, Leland
Erdman, Frederi P

F
Fairbanks, John A Jr. & Connie T
Farland, Eugene W & Katherine
Farnham, Al
Farnham, Kevin
Farnsworth, Randy
Fassett, Ronald & Brenda
Featherstone, Michell E
Ferguson, Floyd
Ferno, Herbert
Ferno, Herbert W
Feuerstein, Robert G
Fifield, Mary
Fitch, Todd H
Flinn, Edwin K
Flood, Dave A & Lou Ann Anderson
Flowers, David A
Flye, James
Fontaine, Fernand O & Marguerite
Fontaine, Marc
Foote, Peter A
Foster, Richard & Deborah
Fowler, Bruce N
Fox, Sheryl
Franco, Domenic
Franks, Robert Jr.
Freeman, Ronnie
French, Beverly
French, Colleen
French, Stella
French, William J

G
Gable Warehouse Inc
Gahagen, Jacqueline
Gaines, Jeffery
Gajewski, Erban J & Viola A
Galbreath, Maurice S & Beverly L
Gallagher, Jeffery & David D. McManamay
Gallison, Jim Sr.
Gallucci, Anthony J
Gandin, Dan L & Lerinda P
Garcia, Norbert O
Garcia, Sandra
Gardner, Seth & Carol
Garfield, April
Garrow, Howard
Garrow, Howard
Gehr, William G
Gehrke, Troy
George, Christie
Gibbs, Robert A & Debra J. Pearce
Gile, David
Girardin, Eugene
Gittelsohn, Paul & Carolyn Goodwin
Glew, Charles A.
Glidden, Benjamin T & Patricia K
Godin, Brenda H
Golbranson, John & Dorothy
Gomez, Richard
Gonyaw, Rodney & Karla
Goodine, Henry A
Goodrich, David D & Ann W
Gorman, Mary M
Goslant, Elmer Jr
Gove, Robert
Greaves, Pamela
Green, Raymond S/
Greenland Partnership
Greenberg, Leo F
Grey, Morgan
Griffin, Dennis R
Griffin, Robert & Cheryl
Fox, Sheryl
Griffith, Estate of Joseph
Grossman, Henry L.
Guarcello, G
Guare, Helen
Guckel, Helen R
Guild, Michael B

Martha McGinnis
Haggett, Stacia
Haggett, Stacia
Haggett, Stacia
Hale, Warren
Hamelin, Charles E
Haney, Shirley J /Pine Bluff Estate
Hannigan, James L & Barbara J
Hansen, Hans
Hansen, Winifred C
Harrington, John
Harris, Mary K
Hastings, Estate of George
Hatch, Margaret
Hatch, Marguerite
Hatch, Ralph J
Hayden, Edward V
Hayes, Julia G
Hayes, Walter
Hayward, David A
Hayward, Lillian
Hazelton, Brian & Valerie A
Heald, Lester R
Heath, Donald
Heath, Parker Jr.
Heath, Roger W & Lauria J
Hebebrand, William E
Heffernan, Michael N & Pamela
Heims, Neil & Iren Smolarski
Henry, Tom
Herman, Sylvia
Hetzler, Gregory J & Lisa A
Hibbert, Robert & Sue
Higgins, Jr. Robert J.
Hill, Aaron L & Sandra W
Hill, Charlotte
Hill, William G & Mildred L
Hilliker, Leonard
Hodgeman, Irma T
Hoffman, Judith
Holderman, Suzette
Holland, Bert T Jr.
Holliday, James & Lynda
Holmes, J E
Holmes, June E
Holmes, Tina M
Holmstrom, Raymond & Robert G Lister
Holtermann, Hildegard C
Holtslag, Joseph P
Hoon, Alice
Hopkins, Leota C & Ralph A.
Horst, John & Kathleen
Howard, Gregory W
Howland, Estate of Susan
Hoyt, Howard

Hubbard, Eugene C
Huessy, Hans G.
Hughlett, R E & Denise A
Hull, John K & Kimberly M
Humphries, Jeni
Hunka, Ronald G. & Sylvia
Hunt, Lester
Huntington, Madalyne
Hutchins, Gerald H & Betty
Hutchinson, Ann
Hutchinson, Delmar S Jr.

I
Ingalls, Glendon W Jr &
Judith
Irving, Marion R
Isham, E Joyce

J
Jacques, Gerard M
Jamieson, Mahlon & E Janet
Jewell, Delia R
Joe's Pond Country Store
Johnson Arthur & Juanita
Johnson, Jr., John E
Johnson, R E
Johnson, Scott
Jones, Robert W
Jones, Robert W & Joyce
Jones, Robert W & Joyce
Jones, Robin A
Jones, William B
Jordan PD Sportsmen
Joslyn, Sharon
Joukowsky, Artemis
Joyal, Pearl
Jurkiewicz, Helene
Justice, Marjorie

K
Karlen, Richard W.
Kashima, Kennon & Vanessa
Malcarne
Kass, Jacob
Kay, James
Keefe, Carolyn
Keiser, Peter R & Gayle E
Keith, David
Kelly, Kevin & Christine
Kenworthy, Karen
Kilbourn, Charles
Kilian, Jon
Kinerson, Richard C & Lois E
Kinney, Wayne
Kittredge, Roy
Knapp, Wyness F
Knapp, James E &
Marilyn M.
Kopacz, Frederick
Koss, Arnold J

L
Labadie, Patricia
Ladd, Thurman
Lafountain, Steven D Sr.
Lakatos, Dr. Peter
Lamb, Jonathan A Sr.
Lamberton, Catherine
Lance, John E & Jean
Landino, Henry A
Lane, Dennis A
Langmaid, Stephen
Lanphear, Doris H
LaPlante, Bernard & Sharon
Larivee, Annie Estate of
Larkin, Edwin & Blanche
Larow, Bruce
Larow, Gary
Lash, Jonathan N
Laundry, Reginald
Lawliss, Bernice Estate
Leach, Robert W
Leclair, Harriett
Leclerc, Alain & Donna
Leggett, John I & Kathryn
Olmsted
Lemay, George E
Lemieux, Iloyd E Jr.
Lemnah, Leora
Lennehan, William
Lenz, Lillie & Michael
McQuilken
Lerner, Earl
Lever, Roger L
Lewis, Brian L &
Stephanie Schmitz
Lewis, Joyce A
Leytham, Thomas B
Lichtenberg, Stephen &
Debra
Liebenow, John D &
Kathryn A
Lincoln, Thomas B
Lloyd, Daniel E & Judith C
Long, Richard K & Roxie A
Long, Richard K & Roxie A
Lord, Marian B.
Lorden, Michael
Lorden, Michael L.
Lorentzen, Doreen
Lovely, Peter L & Deborah M
Ludwig, Pamela D
Lunt, Dudley C & Anna
Lyman, Rodney H
Lynn, John C

M
MacAuley, James
Machell's Radio Supply
Machen, David
Mack, George L
Mack, George L
Mack, Roger
MacLaurin, Richard N
Madison, Stephen & Karen
Magoon, Stanton R. &
Marjorie E.
Maher, Jeffery & Judith A
Mahoney, James B & Debra
Makinson, Daphne
Mandel, Lisa
Mangino, Albert Sr.
Mangino, Joseph D
Manning Kelly L
Mansigian, J
Maple Corner Waters/
E Holliday Kane
Marcotte, John A
Mardin, Donna B
Marsh, Esther C
Marsh, Harold N
Marsh, Marylou
Martin, Curtis C
Martin, Steven A
Masland, Chad
Massey Edward & Norma
Mattegat, Otto J.
Matthew, Thomas M &
Susan W
Mattote, Mark
Mayer, Joseph
Mayhew, Wanda
McBride, Christine
McCormish, Margaret
McCosco, Charles F
McCracken, Joann
McCullough, Dwight Jr.
McDonalds, Doris
McDonald, Deborah
McFarland, Stephen
McFarland, Stephen J
McGill, Charles H &
Shirley H
McGintee, John F. & Irene
McLaughlin Harold & Dona T
McQueen, Raymond
McQuillan, Alan A & Susan J
McShane, Rev. James J
Mears, Edgar
Meeks, Charles
Melanson, A. W. &
Georgiana E.
Menard, Katherine
Menard, Robert W
Mendes, Manuel R. &
Sharon A.
Mercadante, John
Mercadante, John & Barbara
Merritt, Robert E
Messer, Richard K
Messier, Walter & Dorothy
Metayer, Christopher
Miller, Iva
Miller, Stanley
Mills, Ellen
Misiak, Ronald A & Karen
Monteith, Joseph
Moodie, Inez
Moody, Beverly J
Moody, Dorothy A
Moore, Helen K
Moore, Mavis
Moore, Pearl F
Moorehead, Carolyn
Moran, Cynthia J
Moretown Hydro Energy Co
Morris, Nicky
Morris, Richard Estate
Morris, Richard Estatell
Morris, Timothy A
Morrison, June K
Morse, Lucille L
Moses, Jessie
Moses, Laura J
Moulton, David & Carolyn E
Mowery, Mary I
Mullen, Carol & Mary Jane
Daly
Mullen, Estate of Jeremiah
Mullins, W F
Munro, Sarah
Murphy, A. ; Foster, D.;
King, G.
Murphy, James P
Murphy, Mark W
Murray, Maidene
Murray, Terrence M

N
Nadeau, Philip
Neader, Rhoda
Neveau, Julie A & Shirley
Flood
New England Telephone Co
Newman, Marilyn
Nicely, Faye E & Peter
Noll, John C & Barbara A
Roux, Robert F
Rowell, Francis E Jr.
Roy, Mary & Brian A
Rueda, Richard A & Shelley
MacAulay
Ruiz, Constance
Russell, John
Russell, Michael L &
Melodie A.

O
O'Brien, Robert J
O'Neill, Patrick
Oparowski, Thaddeus &
Patricia
Ordway, Kelvin E
O'Rear, Jay
Osgood, Bryce N
Ostrum, John P

P
Pacini, Cecile
Page, Elizabeth P
Page, Howard E
Page, Laura
Paige, Diane J
Paige, June S
Pape, Phil E.
Pappalardo, Cheryl A
Paradise, Stephen & Gina
Parauka, Marion
Parker, Cyrus E
Parker, Estate of Edith O.
Parker, Lola H
Parker, Mariann
Parker, Mariann E
Parrot, Kenneth
Parrot, Kenneth & Claudia S
Parry, Joel G
Parry, John G Sr.
Parton, Worley Jr.
Pateron, David H & Beverly
Paton, Julia A
Payette, Lisa M
Payne, Thomas W d
Pearson, Eric D & Jean Y
Pearson, Robert A
Pecor, Robin A
Peduzzi, Norman W
Pendleton, Ruth E
Perkins, John-David &
Rebecca J. Williams
Perreault, Lawrence
Perrin, Merle
Perron, Nan
Perry, Duane M
Perry, Sherman
Petryszak, Christopher
Pettibone, Mary
Phillips, Kenneth A
Pieper, Janice & Joshua J
Mamis
Pike Hill Auto Service Inc
Pike III, Philip
Pike, Francis H
Pilbin, William L
Pilette, Susan
Platt, Dorothy A
Poor, Harriet H
Pope, Arthur
Potter, Sonya
Powers, Roger J Sr.
Pratt, Rebecca & Bruce R
Pratt, Stephen B & Lisa J
Preble, W J
Prosser, Robert
Protas, Alan
Proulx, Annie
Pryce, Steve
Puffer, David
Purcell, Timothy

R
Rainbow Trust
Ramsay, Scott J
Randall, Raymond
Rasco, Sharlene M
Raymond, Robert M dba
Bob's Auto Repair
Reed, William
Reid, William
Restelli, Stephen & Terry L
Reynolds, Charles R.
Rice, Kevin & Donna M
Richard, Alfred E
Richardson, Elizabeth
Richardson, Robert & Lisa
Richer, Franklin
Richmond, Janice B
Ricker, Julie
Ricker, Nancy
Rider, John
Riley, Thomas
Ripley, Beverly A
Robinson, Charles &
Kathleen
Robinson, John T & Eileen
Rogers, David A & Lynne Z
Rogers, Mildred R
Rollins, Barbara
Rollins, Flossie
Rollins, Philip R
Romero, Jr. Jose L.
Ronner, Arthur & Mary Kay
Roque, Winifred
Roque, Winifred J
Rosa, Aldo
Rose, Robert C
Rossi, Mark & Cynthia
Roth, Juergen & K
Roux, Robert F
Rowell, Francis E Jr.
Roy, Mary & Brian A
Rueda, Richard A & Shelley
MacAulay
Ruiz, Constance
Russell, John
Russell, Michael L &
Melodie A.

Rutledge, Shirley A
Ruttner, Michael & Donna

S
Sales, Sue
Salls, Steven M
Salomaa, Irene
Salomaa, Marjorie
Saltimbocca, N V
Saltimbocca, NV
Sanborn, Jr., William G./
Estate of F K Sanborn
Sanborn, Richard & Ruth E
Sangermano, Peter & Diane
Sargent, Carol L
Sargent, Charles A
Saunders, Robert & Roberta
Sawlan, Raymond P &
Diane C
Sawyer, Richard P
Schaffer, Stephen &
Naomi M
Schile, G J & E H
Schmidt, Christel H
Schnaars, Henry A & Mary
Chappas
Schorger, Ann B.
Scott, Diane L
Scott, James F & Kathy
Sears, Walter F & Arlene M
Selby, Cleland E
Senecal, Kenneth E
Sense, E
Shangraw, Warren A
Shatney, Harry
Shields, M A & B P
Shipman, David W.
Shor, Betty
Shor, Betty
Shper, Paul & Grace Gilbert
Sicard, Donald & Velma
Sicely, Grace M
Sidusky, John
Siegler, Andrew P
Silman, Jeffrey
Simard, Michael & Jeanette
Simmons Cable TV of Barre
Sinon, George T
Sleeper, Alfred
Slingland, James D
Smith, Daryl & Laurie
Smith, Michael A &
Kathleen A
Smith, Peter
Smith, Philip M
Smith, Richard
Smith, Sharon
Smith, Wayne G & Norma H.
Snyder, Marvin W. &
Marabel P.
Sorensen, Mary
Sorrentino, Alfonso
Souppa, William Jr. &
Barbara W
Sparks, Arnold F.
Spaulding, Ruth M
Spencer, Lawrence A
Spiers, Merrick J & Cindy
Spoor, Jr., Ralph E.
Squires, Jeffery
St. John, Rex & Nancy
Stanaway, Susan D
Starr, William Estate Of
Starti, William G
Stecker, Paul & Kristine
Stone, Edward A &
Wanda Lee
Stone, Harvey A
Strayhorn, Alvin
Street, Alison
Streit, Kenneth R.
Stridsberg, Lawrence
Stryker, Jon
Sullivan, C Theresa
Summerlin, Frankie & Betty
Surviva, Joyal
Sweet, George R & Terrie L
Swenson, David
Swenson, Susan
Symons, Helen D
Symons, Richard A &
Helen D
Szulc, Alfred V. & Lynda
Szymanski, Michael

T
Taber, Ronald
Tanner, Ardieth S
Tassie, Priscilla
Taylor, Theophilos Estate of
Tellier, Raymond R
Terry, Carlton P & Wayne A
Terry Sr.
Tescher, Donald B &
Margaret E
Thivierge, Roger J
Thomas, James H
Thompson, Priscilla
Thorne, Nicholas
Thorne, Philip G
Thorstenen, Thomas &
Helen I.
Thurston, Andrew S
Thurston, Jason H &
Florence K
Tierney, Patricia
Tierney, Robert G. & Eta M.
Tillotson, Evelyn
Tolassi, David

Tomaszewicz, David A.
Touchette, Donald
Towne, Bernadette
Towne, Bradford M
Treadway, Wade & Susan
Trepanier, Paul & Eldira
Trevett, Jeanne M
Triplett, David E. (Mission
Builders)
Tripp, Yvonne L
Trudel, Leo L. & Julie-Ann
True, Gerlad
Tucker, Theodore & Kelli S
Turley, Christopher A
Turner, Elizabeth M & Paul H
Turner, Emma M
Tuz, Charles L

U
Unhouse, Martha & Joseph
Urcan, James
Ut, Timothy & Sally

V
Vail, Edith
Van Namee, Mitchell
Vance, Linda
Vanzandt, Veronique & Jon
Vigeant, Michael & Claudette
Viger, Christopher
Voorhees, Mary T

W
Wade, James M & Leanna
Waits River Gen Store/Claire
L. Gurney
Wallace, Marlene B
Wallace, Scott & Sue Ellen
Walton, William M
Ward, Diane
Ward, Marion
Ward, Tim
Ward, William E
Washer, Robert H &
Cynthia J
Watkin, T S & William Watkin
Watkins, Timothy P
Watson, Christopher A
Webster, Connie L
Welch, Austin A & Dorothy F
Welch, James L
Welch, James L & Wendy R
Welch, John & Carolyn
Welch, Randy & Allison
Welch, Raymond R
Welch, Stanley H &
Glendine F
Welcome, Dennis J &
Barbara A
Welker, Glenn E
Wells, Duane
Wells, Jan P
Wernicke, Joanne
Whalen, Tom
Wheeler, Mark A
Wheeler, Vicky
White, Barbara & Jay A
White, Edward
White, Lloyd
White, Wayne M
White, William J.
Whitehill, Norman
Whitman, Emil F
Whittemore, Charles L
Wild, David
Wild, Hazel B.
Wilder, Joyce
Wilhelmi, Charles
Willey, Douglas & Diane
Laferriere
Williams, Clyde A & Laurie E
Williams, Douglas & Mary
Jane
Williams, Harold H.
Williams, William J Jr.
Willis, Ann
Willson, Bruce L & Beryl M
Wilson, Edward J & Ilona P
Wilson, Robert J.
Winters, Linda
Wiseman, Warren
Wiseman, Warren
Witham, Nina A
Witham, Robert E
Witham, Wendell
Wojcik, Walter P & Barbara B
Woodard, Charles A
Woods, Diane
Woods, Howard
Woodward, Joanne M
Workstus, Jr., John P.
Wright, Andrew
Wright, Jeffery F & Susan
Wright, Virginia

Y
Yarian, Stanley O & Lucy
Young, Doreen & Stephen
Young, Edward Jr.
Young, J Peter
Young, Roland A

Aesthetics and Wind Power

continued from page 1

general manager, after the Public Service Board (PSB) announced a favorable ruling for UPC-Vermont Wind. "Although I didn't necessarily agree with their reasoning in that case, the Board made it clear that the reasons they turned East Haven down would not be reasons to turn down a future project."

In the East Mountain decision location was a major issue. While the site was hardly pristine, with an old and decrepit former Air Force installation on the summit; and roadways through the woods already existed – it happened to be near a large holding of publicly owned lands. The staff member who conducted the hearings felt that the wind farm would compromise the public's investment in those lands and recommended denial. But in an unusual move, the PSB disagreed with this recommendation, concluding that the wind turbines would not compromise the public's investment. Their denial was in the end solely based on issues of wildlife protection that the board felt had not been adequately addressed.

In that light, Patt said he was not surprised that the Sheffield project had made the grade, even though it would be more prominent on the ridgeline. The Sheffield project is larger than the now-sidelined East Mountain project in every way. If constructed as planned, it will include 16 turbines (as opposed to four for East Mountain); the towers will be 419 feet high with blades vertically extended (East Mountain, 329 feet); and the project's output capacity will be around 40 megawatts (six for East Mountain).

Although numerous criteria were considered at length, approval of the Sheffield project turned on the issue of aesthetics. The visual impact of wind turbines was the paramount objection both of local opponents and of people who protest wind projects in every part of the state. They have Governor James Douglas on their side; Douglas expressed disappointment with the Sheffield decision, saying he opposed "the industrialization of Vermont's ridgelines."

But Act 248, the statute under which the PSB evaluates applications for Certificates of Public Good, makes allowances for aesthetic impact. Like Act 250, it bases its aesthetic decisions on the so-called Quechee Decision of 1985, which recognized that development proposals could be aesthetically "adverse" but must not be "unduly adverse." This is measured in three ways: Does the project violate a written community standard intended to preserve scenic beauty? Would its impact be offensive to the average person? Had the applicant taken steps to mitigate the adverse impact?

"The Board concluded that the visual impacts would not be 'unduly adverse' under the . . . 'Quechee Test,' and ruled that the benefits of the project outweigh the visual impacts," the PSB said in its press release. "The Board relied on visual simulations and analyses demonstrating that most views of the project will be from a distance such that the size will not be overwhelming, and consequently the average person will not find the project 'shocking or offensive. . ."

A year ago, speaking at Renewable Energy Vermont's annual conference in Burlington, WEC's Avram Patt said, "Making a fundamental change in our energy supply cannot be anything other than visible. We cannot hide where electricity comes from. The definition of Vermont-scale cannot be limited to some nostalgic notion of what Vermont used to be and never really was. Vermonters have a long tradition of using all of our resources, and that includes scratching out every kilowatt-hour and every BTU out of all the small resources that are all over Vermont.

"And it also includes embracing wind power and seeing some of it on our ridgelines."

Significantly for the future of wind power and green, renewable energy in this state, the Public Service Board is apparently of the same mind. The future seems to be getting closer.



“On” Is Not “Off”

Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Are Not the Same

by Paul Grover

Most people use the terms “efficiency” and “conservation” interchangeably. When we understand how different they are, solutions to our energy and environmental problems become much clearer.

Engineers originally created the term “efficiency” to quantify machine performance. Efficiency is “the ratio of energy developed by a machine to the energy supplied it.” If we put 100 units of useable energy back, that boiler is said to be 90-percent efficient.

We must maintain, and periodically buy, (costly) equipment to become more energy-efficient. This efficient equipment must be “on” to produce savings, and the longer it’s on, the more we “save.” If we buy a Prius, we are driving a high-efficiency vehicle. The more we drive, the more we “save,” often with little thought to

how many miles we drive in a year.

Energy conservation is quite different from energy efficiency. The late Fred Tuttle best summed up “conservation” when he told me, “if y’don’t need it, turn the darn thing off.” The goal of energy conservation is to minimize resource use and eliminate waste. While efficiency strives for more energy “bang for the buck” when equipment is on, conservation delivers even greater benefits when that same equipment is off.

A simple example illustrates the difference. After we turn on a light, our concern is how efficient the bulb is. When we turn the light off, we conserve electricity whether the bulb is energy-efficient or not.

If energy efficiency is our only concern and we do not practice conservation, lights can be on night and day, and as long as the bulbs are energy-efficient we are using electricity efficiently. Again, the longer we burn our energy-efficient bulbs,


the more we “save.” Efficiency without conservation can waste a lot of electricity.

Energy efficiency may enable consumers to get “more” from the energy they use, but without conservation, resource use increases, leading to more negative environmental and health consequences. Today, our cars are more fuel efficient (more MPG), yet we drive more miles per vehicle, burning more gas every year and importing more oil. It’s like buying low-fat potato chips to “save” calories and then eating three bags.

In 1865, economist William Stanley Jevons observed that England’s consumption of coal soared after James Watt introduced a more efficient coal-fired steam engine. This led to “Jevon’s Paradox,” which states that more efficient technology reduces the cost of the benefit produced and increases the consumption of resources. This “paradox” certainly applies to electricity use in Vermont, the U.S., and the world. Our focus on

producing more-efficient and cheaper electricity over the past century has led to huge increases in the consumption of the natural resources used to meet the demand.

Since 1991, Vermont has mandated millions of dollars be spent encouraging and subsidizing the purchase of energy-efficient equipment, administered first by electric utilities and then, beginning in 2000, through Efficiency Vermont. Yet between 1991 and 2005, Vermont’s electricity use has continued to rise. It’s time to question whether efficiency without conservation is delivering the results we want and need.

So, the next time you see efficiency and conservation in the same sentence, remember that they are not the same and that they produce very different results. “On” is not “off,” and using electricity more efficiently does not mean you are using less. 

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Vermont DPS Launches ‘Public Engagement Process’

Features Regional Workshops – But Don’t Forget to Pre-Register!

Good old Vermont. Our state, which is famous for continuing to conduct itself like a participatory democracy when so much of the country has outgrown its capacity for doing so, will conduct a process this fall in which citizens can gather, learn about, and reflect upon the energy choices that will face Vermont imminently – and by doing so, perhaps influence the critical decisions that must be made by the legislative and executive branches in the immediate future.

This process, mandated by the Legislature two years ago and signed into law by Gov. James Douglas, will be conducted by the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS). It will begin in October – and the most important dates for members of Washington Electric Co-op to note are Wednesday, October 3, and Thursday, October 18, which are when the regional “Public Engagement Workshops” that are part of the first stage of the project will be held in locations near us. The October 3 workshop will be at the St. Johnsbury Elementary School; the October 18 location is the Montpelier Elks Club. (See box for dates and locations of all five DPS workshops.)

At each site, doors will be open at 5:30 p.m., and a light dinner will be served before getting down to the business of learning, talking about, and even voting upon, Vermont’s energy future. Everyone is invited to attend, but the DPS asks that you pre-register for the event. To do so, go to the website www.vermontseneryfuture.info, and follow the link titled “register here.” Interested people who don’t have computers should call the DPS to inquire how they can register and attend.

There are more components to

the Public Engagement Process than the regional meetings. In November, a polling firm hired by the DPS will conduct a round of “deliberative polling” via telephone – a more-informative departure from the “push polls” of political campaigns. The DPS will also bring together a cross-sectional group of citizens for a weekend, providing them an honorarium (a small stipend) and covering their expenses, to engage in the process by which Vermont eventually will come to grips with the decisions it must make within the next few years concerning energy.

“We’re going to ask people to work for us for a weekend,” said Stephen Wark, DPS director of consumer affairs.

DPS also will dedicate a website to taking comment from Vermonters. The Department is chartered to be the citizens’ representative in matters pertaining to regulated industries, like electric utilities.

“What we’re so excited about is that when you look at the regional workshops, the deliberative polling, and the online connection, this will constitute the largest public sampling ever taken in the United States on energy,” Wark said.

What’s at stake

The decisions looming before the state are related to the fact that Vermont’s two main electricity contracts – with Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, owned by Entergy of Louisiana, and Hydro-Quebec – will expire between 2012 and 2015. Together, they account for two-thirds of the state’s electric power. (Co-op members are in a somewhat better situation, because WEC terminated its contract with Vermont Yankee in 2002 and supplies more than half its power through WEC-owned

resources; Hydro-Quebec, however, remains a large contributor to Washington Electric’s power mix.)

In Vermont, we gather public opinion on many things. But energy, Wark pointed out, is a more complicated subject than most. As Vermont decides on a course to pursue, it will need to weigh the merits and drawbacks of alternatives such as coal, nuclear, fossil fuel, and renewable energy; whether to expand the state’s transmission line infrastructure; how much to invest in energy efficiency; and how much nuclear waste to tolerate in storage within our borders.

That’s why the regional workshops will have a strong educational component. A panel consisting of DPS Energy Planner Dave Lamont, Rich Sedano of the Regulatory Assistance Project, and a Vermont utility representative, will lead the discussion during the first part of each meeting.

“This is not about us telling people what our policy should be,” Wark emphasized. “It’s more like, ‘Here’s the energy picture as we understand it. What do you think we should do?’”

Each workshop will conclude with the participants voting via keypads in response to questions about what is most important to them regarding energy. After all five regional meetings have been held the polling results will be posted online.

Through Co-op Currents and other means, Washington Electric Cooperative has been a leading voice in Vermont, particularly among electric utilities, seeking to interest the public in energy matters of tremendous importance economically, environmentally, and in terms of security (increasing Vermont’s self-sufficiency in a world in which energy plays a role in warfare, terrorism, and

susceptibility to “energy blackmail”).

But unfortunately a conflict arises between the October 18 DPS workshop and WEC’s “community meeting” in Calais, which is scheduled for the same night.

“We regret the conflict between these two important events,” said Co-op General Manager Avram Patt. “We had already made the arrangements for our Calais meeting before the Department’s schedule was set. On the other hand, the two events have different focuses: ours, on WEC’s policies and services, and our Co-op’s plans for the future; while the Department’s workshops will have a more statewide focus. Maybe those differences will help people decide which one to attend.”

Since beginning the community meetings some four years ago, they have proved to be popular with Co-op members.

“In any case,” said Patt, “we hope Co-op members and others will take advantage of the Department’s outreach effort. The DPS is trying to do, on a statewide basis, what Washington Electric works so hard to do – which is to engage people directly on matters of energy, conservation, and cost. It’s vitally important that people weigh in on this discussion and not leave it solely in the hands of corporations and government. We commend the Department of Public Service for their effort, and hope it will be successful.”

Co-op Currents will keep you posted.

DPS ‘Public Engagement’ Workshops

- October 3 – St. Johnsbury Elementary School
- October 17 – South Burlington High School
- October 18 – Montpelier Elks Club
- October 29 – Dean Technical Center (Springfield)
- October 30 – Rutland Intermediate School

Remembering Former WEC Board Member and Local Activist, Bob Fisher

Central Vermont lost a unique and uncommonly committed social reformer on August 9, 2007, when Robert M. ("Bob") Fisher of Middlesex passed away at the age of 78. Fisher was elected to Washington Electric Co-op's Board of Trustees in 1976, but was defeated for re-election in 1979.

"Bob was one of a group of folks, along with Margaret Lucenti and Bob O'Brien, who got together in the early 1970s, who were challenging the direction the Co-op was going in and the closed nature, at that point, of the Co-op," said Barry Bernstein, current president of WEC's Board of Directors. "They tried to change the direction of the Co-op into pursuing more renewable energy and less nuclear power. They were only on the board for one term, and then they were defeated. But still, they stood up and ran and were on the board at a time when it was uncomfortable to be different."

According to the obituary published

in The Times Argus, Fisher was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1928. He came to Vermont in 1946 and attended Goddard College, earning a bachelor's degree in art. He continued his artistic studies under renowned abstract artist Hans Hofmann, and later taught art at UVM.

Fisher was known for his commitment to progressive causes and to the peace movement. He was a conscientious objector during the Korean War and performed alternative service working with mentally ill patients. Bernstein said that Fisher befriended veterans from World War II who went to Goddard on the GI Bill, leading to his adoption into the Veterans for Peace organization despite the fact that he hadn't served in the military.

Fisher also took the bold step of traveling to Mississippi to work for civil rights during the same period when civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney were murdered by Ku Klux Klansmen in

1963.

"One of the things people said at his memorial service, which I thought really captured him, was that Bob was a person of the highest integrity; when he really believed in something he didn't always say it gracefully, but he stood up for the things he felt were fair and right,"

said Bernstein.

Bob Fisher's Times Argus obituary said, "Donations may be made in his name to the Vermont Respite House, 99 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, Vermont 05495, or to the Green Mountain Chapter of Veterans for Peace, c/o P.O. Box 508, Johnson, Vermont 05656."



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Sheffield Wind Project

continued from page 1

UPC-Vermont Wind must meet to comply with its permit. These included maximum noise levels, protecting wildlife through a plan agreed to between UPC and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and minimizing the effects of construction traffic.

Significantly, though, the PSB was not swayed by complaints about the aesthetic impact of the Sheffield proposal – the chief objection expressed by opponents.

“They concluded, very clearly, that seeing some windmills at a considerable distance,

such as from the beach at Crystal Lake [in Barton] is not an undue impact,” said Patt. “The project will have a physical and visual impact in the area, and there’s no getting around that. But simply the fact that something will be visible at a great distance from somewhere else is not enough to stop a project.”

WEC: right project, right developer

Originally, there were to have been more wind towers – 20, as opposed to the 16 approved – and they were to have occupied ridges in two towns. However, in September 2006, UPC scaled down the project in terms of its potential output (from 52 to 40 MW) and its footprint. The company eliminated all four towers that were to have been located in Sutton, partially compensating for that reduction by raising the height of the towers that remained. There was more objection to the project in Sutton than in Sheffield, where residents voted convincingly at a public meeting to support the development.

UPC’s concessions, of course, were aimed at winning regulatory approval for the project. But they also reflected the company’s responsiveness to public opinion. Patt explained that that way why WEC decided to back UPC in the first place. The Co-op had received a grant (approximately \$900,000) from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2001, specifically to put toward wind power generation for its members. WEC put its backing behind UPC and its Sheffield project in 2005.

“When we were deliberating about what developer to go with,” Patt said, “part of our due diligence was, ‘We’re going to be sticking our necks out, so is this a project that the Co-op wants to be linked with? Are they ethical? Do they have the same environmental concerns we do?’ I have followed how UPC dealt with the community and with state regulators, and we have felt they’ve done a very good job of communicating, listening, and responding to people from the very beginning.”

Their reward, Patt said, was virtually unprecedented approval for a commercial-scale wind project in a state where

some skeptics have doubted it could happen.

Matt Kearns, UPC director of project development for the Northeast, noted another concession the company had made: it located the 16 towers on slightly lower ground than originally planned.

“Elevation is correlated with wind speed,” Kearns said, “so you have to have a certain height. But we recognized that elevation also presented some

challenges and issues for certain stakeholders in the process. We tried to solve that basic challenge by siting the project within a community that was supportive, and then by choosing a slightly lower site without sacrificing

the necessary wind resource.”

And although Vermonters tend to think of the state’s fabled Northeast Kingdom as wild, remote, and undeveloped, Kearns said another of the company’s considerations was that the Sheffield site was already “compromised.”

“It already has transmission lines; it’s been logged for many, many years, so there are a lot of roads and fairly large clearings. It’s close to the Interstate [I-91]; in Vermont, when you’ve got an area disturbed by virtue of a highway, it makes sense to co-locate new development within that corridor.”

Presumably, these factors contributed to the PSB’s approval.

Hurdles remain

However, not all the problems have been solved. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has expressed dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the Certificate of Public Good. This includes the route that

construction traffic must follow: the permit prescribes a route that avoids Darius Road, where the King George School is located, but the Corps prefers that route because it would have less environmental impact than constructing a new road to intersect with existing logging

roads that lead to the site. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – a “commenting agency” for the Corps – has also expressed concerns over wetlands-protection agreements between UPC and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR).

Kearns therefore expects a high level of review by the federal regulators, “but I hope they would recognize the value of our working closely with a state agency” (the ANR). He is guardedly optimistic that the process of coming to agreement on these issues will not delay the company’s intention to start construction early in the summer of 2008.

Of perhaps greater concern, Kearns said, is how education taxes will affect the project. The issue is not so much the amount that UPC would pay to the state each year (estimated to be between \$500,000 and \$750,000), but rather that the amount could fluctuate significantly. (Separately, the Town of Sheffield and UPC reached an agreement on town

“Wind generation facilities can provide a number of benefits to Vermont and the region, such as fuel diversity, energy independence, reduced air emissions, and increased tax revenue.”

— Vermont Public Service Board

“The project will have a physical and visual impact in the area, and there’s no getting around that. But simply the fact that something will be visible at a great distance from somewhere else is not enough to stop a project.”

— Avram Patt



Two more simulated perspectives of the view of UPC’s proposed wind turbines in Sheffield. Says Avram Patt, WEC’s general manager, “Making a fundamental change in our energy supply cannot be anything other than visible. We cannot hide where electricity comes from.” The difference is that now we will see it in Vermont, whereas other states have long lived with power-generation facilities in their midst.

property taxes, which would provide Sheffield with between \$400,000 and \$500,000 annually – certainly a selling point for local citizens.)

Speaking of the state education taxes, Kearns explained, “We need a predictable number that we can put in the model and finance the project around that.”

The industry has been pressing the Legislature to adopt a new way of charging renewable energy providers for this tax.

“It’s a high-risk business to build a renewable energy project,” said Kearns. “If you want to send a message to developers to build renewable-energy projects in your state, tax certainty is the way to do it.”

A learning tool for Vermont

If these final hurdles can be crossed, Vermont may have a state-of-the-art commercial wind site by 2009. WEC would contract for about 10 percent of the Co-op’s power from the Sheffield facility – a fairly small fraction of the project’s rated output – and other Vermont utilities are expected to purchase the rest.

Other benefits, aside from tax revenues for the municipality and state, include employment. Kearns estimated there would be about 200 construction-related jobs, and five permanent jobs after the towers, the turbines, and all connecting power lines are installed. UPC

has already selected an experienced EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) contractor, which is a specialized form of general contracting not available locally at the scale needed for the wind project.

However, he said, “Our commitment to hiring local has been clearly articulated to them, and they’re looking for Vermont subcontractors for various components of the project, such as road work, trucking, equipment hauling, and labor. The subcontractors will likely be Vermont companies, and will do the local hiring.”

Perhaps most intriguing, though, is the role the Sheffield project could play in moving the state toward greater skill and experience with renewable energy. Kearns said UPC had talked with officials at Vermont Technical College in Randolph about collaboration and training, “so that ultimately we’re educating people to work at the next wind project, by readying them with skills for this technology.”

“The idea is one of allowing Sheffield to become a classroom for people to learn the skills necessary to have a green economy: testing sites, working with regulations, learning aspects of development to make sure a project is commercially viable, working on power-purchasing agreements. Coming out of the abstract and into the real, in terms of creating a renewable economy, starts right here in Sheffield.”

