

1 **PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
2 **Wednesday, April 24, 2023**

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4 The meeting of the Project Review Committee was held remotely. Chair B. Buermann called the meeting to
5 order at 6:00 PM.

6
7 **ATTENDANCE:**

8 Commission: Scholten, Marietta ☒ ; Demars, Howard ☒; Buermann, Robert ☒; Irwin, William ☒

9
10 Staff: Emily Klofft.

11
12 Guests: Jared Williams, Ron Shems Mark Hill, Pippa Dorfman, Chris Bruhn

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14 **Changes or Additions to the Agenda:**

15 None.

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17 **Public Comment**

18 None.

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20 **Minutes**

21 *M. Scholten motioned to approve the minutes of the March 2023 meeting. B. Irwin seconded. The motion*
22 *carried.*

23
24 **Project Reviews:**

25
26 **Section 248- Bellevue RNG, LLC**

27 *Project Details:* Renewable gas biodigester and RNG pipeline extension. Project is located in Berkshire,
28 and the pipeline is located in Berkshire, Enosburgh and Enosburg Falls.

29
30 E. Klofft stated that this project was the renewable natural gas biodigester and associated pipeline extension
31 from the farm in Berkshire to the existing VGS line in Enosburg Falls. The Committee had reviewed the 45-day
32 notice previously.

33
34 B. Buermann asked J. Williams if the project had changed since the 45-day notice. J. Williams stated the
35 project had not changed. J. Williams reviewed what he felt the major benefits of the project were: that it
36 would create new jobs, reduce the methane emissions from the farm, and allow injection of manure that
37 would reduce runoff. R. Shems added that the project would preserve working lands and provide an important
38 economic benefit to the farm.

39
40 J. Williams stated that all equipment that produces noise would be located inside, to ensure that noise levels
41 would not exceed what is typical for a working dairy. He stated that the aesthetics of the structure would be
42 similar to a large silo. First-responders will have access to tour the facility and assistance with understanding
43 potential hazards R. Shem stated they had letters from both Enosburgh and Berkshire responding positively to
44 the project. R. Shems stated that the pipeline will be buried and directional drilling will be used to prevent
45 impacts to wetlands and streams.

1 B. Irwin asked if the pipeline was located to the north or south of the road, as the north of the road would be
2 further from the river. The Committee reviewed the map, the project is located to the north of the road. B.
3 Irwin asked if there had been any discussion about possibilities for other farms to connect to the system. M.
4 Hill stated that they had talked to some other farms in Vermont, ultimately it VGS must decided there is
5 sufficient demand to justify expanding the line. B. Irwin asked if the houses & businesses that would be
6 located along the new line would have an opportunity to connect to the pipeline. M. Hill stated that at the
7 Town Hall meeting with VGS, they had stated there would be a process for requesting to connect to the
8 pipeline. VGS is ultimately responsible for determining who can connect to the pipeline. M. Hill stated most of
9 the people living along the proposed expansion are currently using fuel oil, and therefore would likely be
10 interested in connecting to the pipeline.

11
12 B. Irwin asked how the project addressed hydrogen sulfide. M. Hill stated that the project was seeking a
13 Vermont minor source air pollution permit, and as part of that process they have a process that will scrub the
14 hydrogen sulfide and then burn it off. B Irwin asked if first responder training would include addressing the
15 hydrogen sulfide risks. J. Williams stated that hydrogen sulfide would be addressed during training and that
16 the buildings had stationary monitors that would alarm in the case that there was hydrogen sulfide gas in the
17 structures.

18
19 B. Buermann asked staff if there were any of the typical questions the Committee had not asked. E. Klofft
20 stated that the only one not addressed was the plan for decommissioning. J. Williams stated that the
21 decommissioning plan was for the farm to retain the biodigester itself so they could continue to produce its
22 byproducts like bedding, while the RNG upgrading equipment would be removed.

23
24 *B. Irwin motioned to find that the project is in conformance with the Regional Plan and that it does constitute a*
25 *substantial regional impact. H. Demars seconded. The motion carried.*

26 27 **Section 248a Industrial Tower and Wireless-**

28 *Project Details:* Application for construction of a 140' tower and associated infrastructure in Enosburgh, VT.

29
30 E. Klofft reviewed the letter from the Public Utility Commission. She reviewed the two previous letters the
31 Committee had sent. She stated that believed the substantial regional impact criteria had confused the
32 Commission, even though both letters state that the project is not in conformance with the Regional Plan.

33
34 B. Irwin stated that he felt it was clear that the project was not in conformance with the Regional Plan based
35 on the height of the tower, which is to accommodate co-location that has not been confirmed, as well as the
36 use of a lattice tower.

37
38 C. Bruhn stated that he was a concerned landowner and agreed that the project would have a major impact
39 on the area.

40
41 B. Buermann suggested that the Committee clarify the key points, that the project doesn't conform due to the
42 height and that only 1 co-location is confirmed. B. Irwin added that the single whip antenna proposed by the
43 St. Albans emergency services would not require the significant height of the tower, since it was not a panel
44 antenna. H. Demars stated it was clear the necessity of the structure in providing service was debatable.

1 *H. Demars motioned that staff sent a clarifying letter to re-state the Committee's position that the project is*
2 *not in conformance with the Regional Plan. B. Irwin seconded. The motion carried.*

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4 **Staff Reviews**

5 E. Klofft reviewed one project under staff review. Section 248a Verizon Wireless/248a-at 243 Gore Road in
6 Highgate is addition of equipment on existing infrastructure, which is generally not a substantial regional
7 impact.

8
9 **Updates**

10 E. Klofft asked if the Committee wanted to move to hybrid meetings. The Committee discussed it and decided
11 to remain virtual for now.

12
13 B. Buermann stated he would not be available at the normal meeting time in May. The Committee discussed
14 rescheduling and decided to cancel the May meeting unless an urgent project review came up.

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16 **Commissioner Announcements**

17 None.

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19 **Adjourn**

20 *H. Demars motioned to adjourn. M. Scholten seconded. The motion carried. The Committee adjourned at 7:06*
21 *PM.*
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