

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 8, 2023

The meeting of the Project Review Committee was held remotely. Chair B. Buermann called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission: Scholten, Marietta ; Demars, Howard ; Buermann, Robert ; Irwin, William ; Garrett, Harold

Staff: Emily Klofft.

Guests: Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Andy McMillion (VELCO), Scott Mallory (VELCO)

Changes or Additions to the Agenda:

None.

Public Comment

None.

Presentation- VELCO: Upgrades to VELCO's Existing K42 Transmission Line (Franklin County Line Upgrade)

S. Mallory presented on the K42 Line Upgrade. The existing line will be kept in service during construction, the upgraded line will be built to one side of the ROW. The line will have less line loss and a second bundled cable will result in an additional 20 MW capacity in the SHEI area. The new structure will be a vertical alignment that is taller than the existing H-frame structure. The project will improve the stability and reliability of VELCO's grid.

M. Scholten asked if there was other infrastructure on the line, such as cable. S. Mallory stated that VELCO has fiber optic cables on the line which they rent capacity on, one of the existing cables will be moved to the new pole and the second line will be replaced by a newer version on the new line.

S. Mallory showed images of the new structure. The project cost is estimated to be 84.6 million dollars. He reviewed the public outreach completed so far. S. Mallory noted that the normal vegetation clearing in the ROW is selective, for the construction the ROW will need to be clear cut and mowed.

B. Irwin asked what proportion of the SHEI constraints would be resolved by the 20 MW additional capacity. S. Mallory stated he was not aware of any specific study of the exact amount of generation needed. GMP completed upgrades of the B20 & B22 to alleviate financial impacts from the curtailing wind resources. B. Irwin asked if this would be coordinated with GMP's plans for grid modernization. S. Mallory stated that they were coordinated through the VELCO master planning process. B. Irwin asked if there was a plan for the wood that would be removed. S. Mallory said that quality wood would be left for the property owner, shrubby material would be chipped and dispersed in the ROW.

1 B. Buermann stated that the aesthetic impacts, while they would be significant if new, are not very different
2 than the existing lines. S. Mallory stated that in some locations vegetation screening is proposed to soften
3 views of the project from the public ROW. A. McMillion stated that the aesthetic images showed the worst
4 case scenario, vegetation that is compatible with the ROW will be allowed to grow back in.
5

6 S. Mallory stated that VELCO does not have any current plans for a second line, but this would allow for a
7 second line in the same ROW.
8

9 E. Klofft reviewed project review sheet. She noted that there were several impacts to wetlands and the flood
10 hazard area. A. McMillion clarified that there would be two new structures in the wetlands as well as
11 replacements of existing structures.
12

13 *B. Irwin motioned to find that the project is in conformance with the Regional Plan and that it does constitute a*
14 *substantial regional impact. M. Scholten seconded. The motion carried.*
15

16 **Minutes**

17 *B. Irwin motioned to approve the minutes of the September 2023 meeting. M. Scholten seconded. The motion*
18 *carried.*
19
20

21 **Project Reviews:**

22
23

24 **Act 250- Westview Condominium Development, LLC**

25 *Project Details:* Construction of four 3-unit condominium buildings on an existing 1.07 acre parcel at 324 South
26 Main Street, Saint Albans Town, VT.
27

28 E. Klofft stated that she had put this project on the agenda based on VTrans comment letter. The comment
29 letter had requested sidewalks be added on the west side of the project and adding a crosswalk to a planned
30 sidewalk on the east side of Route 7. The Town is currently out to bid on a project to expand sidewalk on the
31 east side of Route 7. M. Scholten stated that she is in support of adding sidewalk. B. Buermann stated that he
32 generally supported these recommendations.
33

34 *B. Irwin motioned that the Committee supports the State's position on adding a sidewalk to the west side of*
35 *Route 7 and adding a crosswalk to the planned crosswalk on the east side of Route 7. M. Scholten seconded.*
36 *The motion carried.*
37
38

39 **Staff Reviews**

40 **Section 248a- AT&T/248a-at 3 Valley Watch Road-Saint Albans Town**

41 E. Klofft stated that project was adding telecommunications equipment to an existing tower, which generally does not
42 have a substantial regional impact. The Committee reviewed the site plan and images of the proposed changes.
43
44

45 **Updates**

46 None.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Commissioner Announcements

The Committee discussed future meeting dates.

Adjourn

B. Irwin motioned to adjourn. M. Scholten seconded. The motion carried. The Committee adjourned at 8:00 PM.

DRAFT