



Stowe Electric Department
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Stowe, VT 05672
802-253-7215
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November 8, 2022

First Class Mail and Electronically

Town of Stowe Selectboard
Town of Stowe Planning Commission
Lamoille County Planning Commission

Re: Town of Stowe Electric Department Wilkins Substation Upgrade
Certificate of Public Good Section 248(j) 45-day Advanced Notice

Dear Stakeholder:

The Town of Stowe Electric Department (“SED”) provides this 45-day notice prior to filing a petition for a Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”) with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) for SED’s proposed Wilkins Substation Upgrade Project (“Project”). This Project proposes to upgrade the current transformers and accompanying equipment at the substation to maintain the safety and reliability of SED’s distribution system¹.

This Project will occur at the existing pad mounted substation owned by SED and located at 306 Cady Hill Road Stowe Vermont (the Wilkins Substation.) This Project will not result in any new structures higher than the current infrastructure at the substation or change the height or perimeter of the existing fence. All work associated with this upgrade will occur within the existing substation fence.

Pursuant to Section 248 of Title 30 Vermont Statutes Annotated and PUC Rule 5.402, SED provides notice to specific stakeholders at least 45 days prior to a CPG filing with the PUC². SED anticipates filing a petition for a CPG under 30 V.S.A. § 248(j) on **December 26th, 2022**.

This notice letter provides the following information about the proposed Project to allow stakeholders to provide feedback to SED:

Reference to 30 VSA § 248 process and comment opportunities
Project description and new equipment upgrade specifications
Project benefits and impacts
Site specific information

¹ Town of Stowe voters approved bond financing for this Project on March 1, 2022; and the Town of Stowe Selectboard approved the bond validation resolution on July 25, 2022, as Agenda Item No A-8.

² Commission Rule 5.400 is available at the Commission’s website, <http://puc.vermont.gov/>.

30 Vermont Statutes Annotated Section 248(j) Petition and Notice

V.S.A. 30 § 248 requires SED to provide notice to specified entities and persons at least 45-days prior to filing a CPG request with the PUC. The Town of Stowe and Vermont Transco, LLC are the only adjoining property owners to the Wilkins Substation. According to PUC Rule 5.402(A), the municipal and regional planning commissions can provide comments to the PUC and SED at least seven (7) days prior to the intended filing date.

Affected municipal and regional planning commissions may also provide recommendations within 45 days from the date SED files its petition with the PUC, if the petition contains new or more detailed information that was not previously provided to the municipal and regional planning commissions. *See* 30 VSA § 248(f). Recommendations made to the Commission pursuant to Section 248(f), or the lack of such recommendations, does not preclude municipal or regional planning commissions from presenting evidence during technical hearings if granted party status.

For additional information regarding the Commission’s processes, including your right to participate in the proceeding, please refer to the “Citizen’s Guide to the Public Utility Commission” found at <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/citizen-guide-public-utility-commission>. The Commission’s website also includes a guidance document on public participation at <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/public-participation-and-intervention-proceedings-public-utility-commission>. Parties can also find information on Section 248(j) procedures at <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/section-248jprocedures>.

Please send all recommendations during this 45-Day notice period to:

Holly Anderson
Clerk of the Vermont Public Utility Commission
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov, holly.anderson@vermont.gov, PUC.ePUCAdmin@vermont.gov
802-828-2358

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Town of Stowe Electric Department Wilkins Substation Upgrade

Project Description and Project Benefits

SED owns the Project Site, which consists of a 35kV/12.5kV distribution substation and associated infrastructure located at 306 Cady Hill Road in Stowe, Vermont (Wilkins Substation). This Substation serves approximately 3,600 customers in Stowe and is located next to VELCO's 115kV transmission substation (Stowe Substation).

The Project will increase the capacity at Wilkins to meet expected demand, add redundancy, improve resiliency, and service quality to the customer load served by this Substation. The Project will add one (1) 10MVA transformer with a new oil containment foundation, one (1) 12.5 feeder position, and one (1) 34.5kV vacuum fault interrupter switchgear, and accompanying equipment to include new conductors, terminations, voltage regulators, and circuit reclosers. All new equipment is proposed as pad mounted to maintain the current design configuration at the substation.

After the PUC issues a CPG, SED will perform all substation work within the existing fence. The current configuration of the existing transformers is two (2) 5MVA pad mounted transformers, which will not get modified by this Project. Attachment 2 is a copy of the nameplate of the new transformer, which may or may not reflect the exact transformer described in the accompanying attachments. The specifications provided are reflective of the size, voltage, oil capacity, and other details of the proposed new transformer.

The Project does not require a new access road or expansion of the current road right of way. SED does not anticipate the need to cut or remove any trees or vegetation. The Project will utilize property owned by SED for all parking, staging of equipment, and the current fence will not be removed or expanded.

Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives

The Wilkins substation is located on a 1-acre parcel that is adjacent to VELCO's Stowe substation. The Wilkins substation was built in 1992 with pad mounted equipment and conductors that tie into the substation underground. Under the current configuration, two (2) 5MVA transformers and two (2) 12.5kV distribution circuits serve approximately 50% of SED's customer load.

SED completed a system study in 2020 that identified certain upgrades for the Wilkins Substation. After reviewing the system study and meeting with engineering consultants, SED determined that the current substation equipment conditions could not be mitigated solely through energy efficiency measures or load curtailment. SED further determined that replacing all the equipment at the substation was not required and the proposed upgrades will allow for additional capacity to help extend the lifecycle of the current substation equipment. The substation infrastructure currently is nearing its rated capacity during heavy loading and reconfiguration of the substation infrastructure will provide increased service reliability and flexibility to SED's distribution system. SED will use this existing site rather than constructing a

new site, because additional capacity for anticipated load growth can be achieved safely and at a least-cost to SED's ratepayers.

Because this location already has the existing SED Wilkins substation and VELCO Stowe substation, there will be no anticipated impacts to the existing human environment and current environmental conditions. The Project will not occur on lands containing primary agricultural soil as defined in 10 V.S.A. §6001, will not modify any access road or utility lines, and will not require the clearing of any vegetation, and is not located near any waters or water body.

Construction & Transportation

The existing Substation is located off a public road and is accessed via Route 100 and River Road. SED will deliver materials for the Project to Cady Hill Road, which is a shared access road. These roads are accustomed to the type of intermittent vehicle traffic required to maintain distribution substations. The local area residents are accustomed to infrequent maintenance calls based on the proximity of the VELCO and Wilkins substations. SED anticipates that the Project construction will occur over a six-month period and will rely on standard utility vehicles and the use of a crane to move the transformer into position. Project construction is limited to the hours between 7AM to 4PM, Monday through Friday. No construction will occur on weekends or recognized holidays.

Preliminary Aesthetic and Environmental Assessment

Because the work is limited and will be performed within the existing substation fence, the Project will have limited aesthetic and environmental impacts. The new transformer will look similar to the current transformers at the substation and will have a new oil containment system. SED will follow the Agency of Natural Resource guidelines for waste removal. SED's Petition will address any comments received on the proposed plan and will include a full analysis of potential aesthetic impacts

Conclusion

SED does not anticipate any undue adverse impacts to the local community from this Project. SED will submit a complete Section 248(j) petition with the necessary the information via e-PUC for the PUC and interested parties to evaluate this Project and CPG. If you have questions or comments on this Project, please contact Jackie Pratt, jpratt@stoweelectric.com, Brent Lilley, blilley@stoweelectric.com, or Michael Lazorchak, mlazorchak@stoweelectric.com at (802) 253-7215.

This document and attachments are electronically filed using ePUC on November 8, 2022

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael Lazorchak
Regulatory Affairs
Stowe Electric Department
PO Box 190
mlazorchak@stowelectric.com
802-253-7215

cc:

Vermont Public Utility Commission
Vermont Department of Public Service
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Charles Stafford, Manager, Town of Stowe
Vermont Electric Power Co., Inc (VELCO)

Enclosures

Appendix A One Line
Appendix B Parcel Map
Appendix C Natural Resources Map