



## *Bennington County Regional Commission*

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November 25, 2024

June Tierney, Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Public Service

RE: Submission of Regional Plan for Determination of Energy Compliance

Dear Commissioner Tierney,

Please accept the attached comprehensive *Bennington Regional Plan*, which includes an enhanced energy element, as the request by the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) for a Determination of Energy Compliance pursuant to Act 174. The energy plan was incorporated as a chapter of the *Bennington Regional Plan* which was adopted on November 21, 2024.

The BCRC worked closely with the Department of Public Service to develop an enhanced energy element consistent with the requirements of Act 174. The BCRC submitted a draft energy element to the Department in May 2024 and received several comments and suggestions which were incorporated into the final version along with comments provided by the BCRC Regional Energy Committee. The BCRC held two public hearings on the Regional Plan, on October 24, 2024, and November 21, 2024, and the plan was duly adopted by commission vote upon the conclusion of the second hearing on November 21, 2024. Some comments were raised at the November 21<sup>st</sup> hearing regarding the residential wind buffer established in the energy element, which may be addressed in the next update to the *Bennington Regional Plan* which will begin in 2025.

The adopted *Bennington Regional Plan* includes all the elements required by 24 VSA Section 4302 and 24 VSA Section 4348(a), and the energy element meets all of the Act 174 standards. The energy element includes the most recent energy data and LEAP model projections provided by the Department, as well as new energy resource maps, and discussions of equity considerations throughout the element in accordance with the most recent Act 174 standards. The policies and actions have been revised from the previous 2017 *Regional Energy Plan* and are consistent with 2024 *Bennington Regional Plan* policies pertaining to land use, transportation, and natural resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request for a Determination of Energy Compliance. BCRC is available to provide any information or coordination needed during the Department's review process.

Sincerely,

William Colvin  
Director