



June 13, 2018

June E. Tierney, Commissioner
Vermont Public Service Department
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Re: Submission of the Central Vermont Regional Plan for Determination of Energy Compliance

Dear Commissioner Tierney,

On behalf of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), I'm pleased to submit the Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended June 12, 2018 for a Determination of Energy Compliance, consistent with Act 174 of 2016. The primary aspect of this amendment includes the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan as an appendix to ensure compliance with the standards of Act 174.

The CVRPC has worked collaboratively with the Department of Public Service to develop a regional energy plan that is consistent with the regional planning standards outlined in Act 174. The CVRPC established a committee of commissioners, business leaders, energy planners, state agencies, and community members to develop the regional energy plan and provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. This draft was provided to the Department for review and comment in March of 2017. The draft plan was then amended based on the comments provided to ensure all the requirements were sufficiently met and other recommendations, such as discussion of invasive species, were incorporated.

Outreach was completed to solicit comments from the public. These efforts included presentations to community groups and regional partners; an open public comment period; handouts for town meeting day; and displays at community events. These public outreach efforts are highlighted in the Executive Summary of the regional energy plan. Additional amendments were completed to the energy plan in early 2018 to address the concerns of the community and the Board of Commissioners. On June 12, 2018 the CVRPC Board of

Commissioner's held the second of two required public hearings and subsequently adopted the amended Central Vermont Regional Plan.

The amended Central Vermont Regional Plan includes an updated energy element and the complete Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan as an appendix. The energy element remains consistent with 24 VSA §4348(a) and has been revised to include references to the regional energy plan, and a summary with specific highlights from the regional energy plan. The goals and policies were also updated for consistency between the two documents. The regional energy plan contains the analysis & targets, pathways & implementation actions, and mapping as required by the standards of Act 174 to obtain a Determination of Energy Compliance.

In preparation of the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan, the Central Vermont Regional Plan was reviewed to identify how energy planning was being discussed. When possible, goals, policies, or actions from other sections of the regional plan were utilized to ensure consistency. This was primarily evident in the Land Use; Transportation; and Utilities, Facilities, and Services Elements of the Central Vermont Regional Plan. The only other significant change to the regional plan includes updates to the Land Use Element for consistency and compliance with the requirements of Act 171 of 2016 related to forest integrity.

The regional energy plan will work in concert with the regional plan and provide additional detail on issues such as development patterns, transportation needs, and siting of renewable energy generation. This additional detail will be used to provide clarity on energy related policies that are included in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.

The CVRPC is committed to assisting its 23 member municipalities in their land use planning efforts including the development of a sustainable energy future. If you have any questions or requests for additional information, I hope you will contact me at 802-229-0389 or waninger@cvregion.com.

We appreciate the Department's participation in the Regional Energy Committee, its guidance answering questions, and its thoughtful review of the draft Plan. We look forward to a continued partnership as the region moves into implementing the Plan's actions.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Waninger
Executive Director