

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

24 V.S.A. § 4352 Determination No. 14

**DETERMINATION OF ENERGY PLANNING COMPLIANCE PURSUANT TO 24
V.S.A. § 4352 FOR ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S
REGIONAL PLAN**

I. INTRODUCTION

Today, in my capacity as the Commissioner of the Vermont Public Service Department (“Department”), I have issued the attached certificate memorializing my affirmative determination pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4352(a) that the Addison County Regional Planning Commission’s (“ACRPC”) Regional Plan complies with the requirements of 24 V.S.A. § 4352 for enhanced energy planning.¹ This determination is made solely as to whether the Regional Plan complies with the statutory planning requirements of 24 V.S.A. § 4352. This determination does not mean that the Department endorses the substantive policy judgments contemplated or promoted in the plan. Additionally, I hereby record the procedural history leading to the compliance determination, as well as a report of the public comments the Department received.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 6, 2018, the ACRPC submitted the Regional Plan for a determination of compliance with the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4352.

¹ The ACRPC’s Regional Plan was duly adopted on July 18, 2018.

On September 20, 2018, notice of a public hearing scheduled for October 15, 2018 was posted on the Department's website.

On September 21, 2018, the Department solicited recommendations from the Secretaries of Agriculture, Food, and Markets; Commerce and Community Development; Natural Resources; and Transportation as to whether the Regional Plan should be certified as compliant with the requirements of 24 V.S.A. § 4352. None of these agencies have opposed certification of the Regional Plan.

On September 21, 2018, notice of a public hearing scheduled for October 15, 2018 was mailed directly to the ACRPC.

On September 27, 2018, notice of a public hearing scheduled for October 15, 2018 was published in the Addison County Independent.

On October 15, 2018, the Department convened a public hearing at the ACRPC's Office in Middlebury, Vermont.

III. AGENCY COMMENTS

Agency of Transportation

On October 16, 2018, AOT informed the Department that it does not have any recommendations for changes to, nor does it oppose certification of the Regional Plan. AOT also commended the ACRPC's recognition of the importance of moving away from fossil fueled transportation options.

Agency of Natural Resources

On October 19, 2018, ANR filed several comments and noted that it does not oppose certification of the Regional Plan. ANR noted that the Regional Plan leaves the designation of specific preferred and unsuitable locations for energy generation to municipalities and encourages the ACRPC and its member municipalities to contact the ANR when identifying such locations. ANR also raised several considerations that ACRPC should consider when applying its standards for energy generation and transmission projects.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

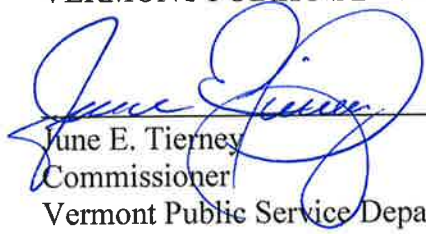
During the October 15 public hearing, several members of the public and ACRPC's Energy Committee spoke in support of the plan as well as engaged in an extensive discussion ranging from the challenge such involved planning is for small, local volunteer boards to whether the State is moving quickly enough towards the 90% renewable energy by 2050 goal. I thank the members of the public who took the time to provide me with feedback at the public hearing. It has been both my duty and privilege to listen to and consider these public comments. This determination decision I am statutorily charged with making affects the lives of the citizens of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's service area and I have not undertaken it lightly.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on my review of the Regional Plan, I have determined that it complies with the requirements of 24 V.S.A. § 4352.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 6th day of November 2018.

VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT



June E. Tierney
Commissioner
Vermont Public Service Department