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Vermont Department of Public Service Announces Forum on Regional and Municipal Energy Planning Standards

Survey Available Now to Help Inform Draft Standards

Montpelier – The Department of Public Service invites all interested Vermonters to provide input on the standards the Department must create per Act 174 of 2016 for determining consistency of regional and municipal plans with state energy policy. The Department will host a forum to gather input on August 30, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Vermont College of Fine Arts (Noble Hall). For those who prefer to provide input in writing, the Department has published an online survey, available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WMTZFF2>. Responses to the survey received by August 25 will help inform the discussion at the forum on the 30th. Responses through September 5 will be accepted and used to help shape the draft standards. The Department expects to release an initial draft of the standards later in September for additional public comment.

Act 174 is intended to improve regional and town energy planning and to enhance community input into the siting of energy projects. The legislation provides regional planning commissions and towns with a greater voice before the Public Service Board when their plans have been determined to be consistent with state energy policy. The Department of Public Service must issue final standards by November 1, 2016.

For planning purposes and in order to provide participants with additional details and parking permits, the Department is asking those wishing to attend the August 30 forum to RSVP. Please RSVP by August 16 by sending an email with your name, contact information, and the subject line “August 30 RSVP” to PSD.PlanningStandards@vermont.gov. For more information on the Department’s activities pursuant to Act 174 recommendations and determination standards, please visit <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards>.

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