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MEMORANDUM

To: June Tierney, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service
From: Catherine Dimitruk, Executive Director, Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Date: July 20, 2017
Subject: Submission of Regional Plan for Determination of Energy Compliance

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission hereby submits a copy of the recently amended Northwest Regional Plan for a Determination of Energy Compliance pursuant to Act 174. This amended plan includes the recently completed Regional Energy Plan as an appendix.

NRPC has collaboratively worked with the Department of Public Service to develop the Regional Energy Plan to ensure consistency with the Energy Planning Standards for Regional Plans. In the summer of 2016, NRPC submitted a draft Regional Energy Plan to the Department of Public Service for comment. NRPC further amended the draft Regional Energy Plan in the fall and winter of 2016 and 2017 to incorporate the Department's comments and public comments collected during several meetings in the fall of 2016. The Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners held public hearings on the proposed amendments to the Northwest Regional Plan (including the Regional Energy Plan) in May and June 2017. The Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners adopted the amended Northwest Regional Plan at their meeting on June 28, 2017.

The adopted Northwest Regional Plan includes a new energy "element" as required by 24 V.S.A. §4348(a). This new energy "element" summarizes the content of the Regional Energy Plan and directly incorporates the Regional Energy Plan's goals and policies into the Regional Plan. The data and analysis, targets, pathways, and mapping required to obtain a Determination of Energy Compliance are primarily found in the Regional Energy Plan. Exceptions to this are noted in the attached checklist (Energy Planning Standards for Regional Plans).

Other required "elements" of the Northwest Regional Plan were not amended. However, NRPC did review both the new Energy "element" and the Regional Energy Plan within the context of the rest of the Northwest Regional Plan to ensure internal consistency of the Regional Energy Plan and Regional Plan Energy "element" with other related elements of the Regional Plan (such as transportation and land use). Where the Regional Energy Plan provides a more detailed analysis and discussion of certain topics, its language shall be relied upon to clarify policies and statements contained in the other sections of the Northwest Regional Plan.

Please let me know if additional information is required to complete the Department's review of the amended Northwest Regional Plan.