

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S
REQUEST FOR A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE
PURSUANT TO 24 V.S.A. § 4352
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024 – 5:30 PM
Via Videoconference**

Public hearing held before the Vermont Department of Public Service, via Microsoft Teams, on April 30, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

T.J. Poor, Vermont Department of Public Service (PSD)

Claire McIlvenie, PSD

Julie Raboin, PSD

Michael Swain, PSD

Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)

Emily Klofft, NRPC

0:18:26.380 --> 0:18:26.930

Poor, TJ

Good evening.

0:18:27.100 --> 0:18:28.370

Poor, TJ

My name is TJ.

0:18:28.380 --> 0:18:28.800

Poor, TJ

Poor.

0:18:28.810 --> 0:18:37.370

Poor, TJ

I'm the director of planning at at the Vermont Department of Public Service with me tonight from the Department of Public Service, or Michael Swain.

0:18:37.380 --> 0:18:46.0

Poor, TJ

And attorney and the public advocacy division Julie Raboin, a public outreach manager, and Claire McIlvanney our data and equity policy manager.

0:18:47.180 --> 0:19:1.80

Poor, TJ

The purpose of this hearing is to gather input from the public regarding N uh, Northwestern Vermont's to excuse me, nor Northwest Regional planning commissions.

0:19:1.850 --> 0:19:15.260

Poor, TJ

I current request for a determination from the department that the they're regional plan complies with the energy planning requirements set forth in statute, and that's 24 VSA 4352.

0:19:16.210 --> 0:19:32.360

Poor, TJ

Before I turn things over to the Planning Commission for a moment at wanna offer a little context for our public hearing Tonight, Act 174 of 2016 created uh energy planning process in Vermont for regional planning commissions.

0:19:32.880 --> 0:19:53.30

Poor, TJ

Pursuant to this process, a Regional Planning Commission has the option of submitting its duly adopted plan to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Service for an affirmative determination of compliance with the statutory standards of 24 VSA 4352, when a regional plan has received affirmative compliance.

0:19:53.840 --> 0:20:11.510

Poor, TJ

The Public Utility Commission is required to afford substantial deference in section 248 proceedings to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in such a plan when reviewing any proposed electric generation facility in the region that is covered by the plan.

0:20:13.130 --> 0:20:27.840

Poor, TJ

If the department finds that plans comply, that land conservation measures and specific

policies contained in the plan receive that substantial deference during the Commission, citing review of any of those proposed electric generation facilities.

0:20:29.40 --> 0:20:42.380

Poor, TJ

Uhm, we have asked Northwest Regional Planning Commission to provide a really brief overview, after which we would invite Members of the public to provide input.

0:20:42.730 --> 0:21:0.750

Poor, TJ

There are no members of the public here tonight, so we're going to ask Catherine to just provide a couple minute overview and have the plan be posted on both there and our websites and provide this recording and opportunity for written comment.

0:21:2.480 --> 0:21:5.0

Poor, TJ

So with that, I think we'll turn it over to you, Catherine.

0:21:6.30 --> 0:21:6.880

Catherine Dimitruk

Thanks very much.

0:21:6.890 --> 0:21:16.780

Catherine Dimitruk

I'm Catherine Demetrick, executive director, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and with me as Emily Kloft, our regional planner who works in current, is currently working on the energy plan.

0:21:17.230 --> 0:21:23.750

Catherine Dimitruk

So the Northwest Regional plan consists of two components related to this determination of energy compliance.

0:21:24.10 --> 0:21:34.960

Catherine Dimitruk

The first is the overall regional plan, which contains 10 elements from land use, transportation, natural resources, housing and energy.

0:21:35.170 --> 0:21:54.10

Catherine Dimitruk

As some examples of some of the components and then the second piece of the regional plan is a standalone regional energy plan which is much more extensive and gets into a

create depth about energy, data, information and goals, policies and implementation for the energy plan.

0:21:55.470 --> 0:22:8.640

Catherine Dimitruk

The primary updates that were included in this plan from 2017 included extensive discussion of equity both in the regional plan itself and in the energy element of the regional plan.

0:22:8.910 --> 0:22:25.780

Catherine Dimitruk

Additionally, we updated our generation data to reflect the all the new generation that's been permitted since 2017 and we adjusted some of our other goals and policies to reflect current thinking around energy, renewable energy and resilience and climate change.

0:22:26.520 --> 0:22:42.480

Catherine Dimitruk

So in a nutshell, that's what we did with this regional plan and we are we have adopted the plan, we adopted it in July of 2023 and it is available on our website at [NRPC V t.com](http://NRPC.Vt.com).

0:22:46.910 --> 0:22:47.240

Poor, TJ

Great.

0:22:47.250 --> 0:22:48.320

Poor, TJ

Thank you, Catherine.

0:22:48.850 --> 0:22:52.120

Poor, TJ

So we will look for public comments.

0:22:52.170 --> 0:22:56.320

Poor, TJ

Uh by May 14th to the Department of Public Service.

0:22:58.0 --> 0:23:13.650

Poor, TJ

You can submit those comments if you're reviewing this to via email at psd.planning.standards@vermont.gov, and again by May 14th, UM and.

0:23:16.120 --> 0:23:28.80

Poor, TJ

The A presentation, the plan itself, and also if I'm correct presentation about the plan will also be posted that may help you guide you through the the plan itself.

0:23:31.0 --> 0:23:43.690

Poor, TJ

Umm, so I think with that if there is nothing else from you, Catherine or for the from the team at the department, we can adjourn this public hearing.

0:23:46.380 --> 0:23:50.190

Catherine Dimitruk

Just extend our thanks to everyone for participating and making this happen.

0:23:53.30 --> 0:23:53.720

Poor, TJ

Thank you.

0:23:54.610 --> 0:23:55.910

Poor, TJ

And we are adjourned.