

NVDA Public Hearing Comments
Proposed Amendments to the NVDA Regional Plan
Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Emery Hebbard State Building, Room 250, City of Newport, VT

NVDA Staff: Alison Low and David Snedeker

Public: Mariel Hess (Glover); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ann Creaven (Glover)

Alison Low opened the public hearing at 6:00pm and informed those present that the purpose of the meeting was to take public comment on the proposed amendments to the NVDA Regional Plan.

Alison explained that the primary reason for amending the Regional Plan was to meet the requirements of Act 174 and give NVDA's plan greater standing in the Public Utility Commission's Section 248 permitting process. Copies of the amended sections of the plan were available for the attendees.

Ann Creaven asked for an explanation of difference between group net-metered vs. community solar.

Ann asked if methane digesters give off CO₂. She also asked if the updates included mention of global warming.

There was a group discussion of composting facilities and the landfill in Coventry.

Jack Sumberg asked for an explanation of the statement about the profitability / competitiveness of the Ryegate woodchip generation facility.

There was a group discussion about wood pellet heating systems and the lack of production facilities in the area. Also discussed were cold-climate heat pumps and their suitability for newer constructed homes vs. older homes.

There was a general consensus from the group that more weatherization work is needed in the region given the older housing stock. Weatherization programs could be expanded to create employment. There was a discussion of the PACE program.

Jack Sumberg asked about public transit options, electric vehicles and infrastructure, and possible uses for the VW settlement money.

The attendees asked about the process following the public hearings. Alison explained that the NVDA Board will consider adopting the proposed plan at its hearing on 4/26/18. The plan would then be submitted to the Public Service Department for a final compliance review.

Jack Sumberg expressed the Glover Energy Committee's support for NVDA's proposed plan amendments.

The hearing was closed at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Snedeker

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