

NVDA Public Hearing Comments
Proposed Amendments to the NVDA Regional Plan
Thursday May 19th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
NVDA Offices, 36 Eastern Ave St Johnsbury VT.

NVDA Staff: Alison Low and Doug Morton

Public: Brent Smith (Groton) and Mark Gleicher (Groton)

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.

Mark Gleicher asked follow up questions relating to the process for towns under an enhanced energy plan around commercial scale wind development. Alison explained that once NVDA's plan was accepted by the PSB, NVDA could approve municipal plans providing they followed the same guidance from the PSB and Act 174.

Alison explained the impact of the Sheffield Highgate complex on the ability of the Grid in northern Vermont to handle new grid tied renewables and the corresponding need to upgrade the infrastructure of the regional electrical grid.

There was group discussion regarding the general condition of the Grid in northern Vermont and its similar impact on Solar development.

Brent Smith asked about small scale Hydro production and how that would be compatible with other state initiatives to remove dams as had just happened in Groton and Burke.

Alison Low explained that there was essentially no new hydro generation proposed

Brent Smith asked about the impact of new transmission lines from Quebec such as under lake Champlain on the competitiveness of facilities like the East Ryegate Power Plant and by extension the surrounding logging industry.

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.

Both Mark Gleicher and Brent Smith expressed their appreciation for the hard work of staff and support of the proposed plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Morton