

Vermont Legislative Council

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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Finance
From: Aaron Adler, Legislative Counsel
Date: April 17, 2015
Subject: Net metering systems; solar park language

Below is language currently being considered by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy regarding colocation of net metering systems and solar parks.

Amend or add to 30 V.S.A. § 8002:

(18) “Plant” means an independent technical facility that generates electricity from renewable energy. A group of facilities, such as wind turbines, shall be considered one plant if the group is part of the same project and uses common equipment and infrastructure such as roads, control facilities, and connections to the electric grid. Common ownership, contiguity in time of construction, and proximity of facilities to each other shall be relevant to determining whether a group of facilities is part of the same project. However, if a tract constitutes a solar park, solar net metering systems with a cumulative plant capacity that does not exceed five MW may be colocated on the tract and retain eligibility for treatment as net metering systems in accordance with section 8010 of this title regardless of whether they would otherwise constitute a single plant under this subdivision.

(28) “Solar park” means a tract of land that:

(A) is designated in a municipal plan adopted under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 for the colocation of solar renewable energy plants with a cumulative plant capacity of not less than one MW;

(B) is well-oriented for access to the sun;

(C) is sufficiently free from obstacles that would hinder such access;

(D) has vehicular access from a State highway as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1 or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 302(a); and

(E) is in close proximity to three-phase power.

Add to 30 V.S.A. § 8010(c)(2)(F) as amended by H.40, in a an appropriate location:

The Board shall provide an amount of credit for a net metering system to be located in a solar park that is lower than the amount that the system would receive if located outside a solar park, taking into consideration economies of scale and any other relevant factor.