

Dear Chris,

I'm writing regarding the Act 47 process to review Act 250 for its 50th anniversary. I recently spoke with Rachel Lomonaco, District #4 Coordinator for NRB, about an Act 250 notice for an additional emergency generator and exhaust stack at UVMHC. Unfortunately, since our house does not fall under the Adjacency Rule, we did not receive notice and learned of the Act 250 details a week too late due to travel.

As you know, our neighborhood has had a lot of low frequency noise issues from UVMHC in the past couple of years. There are 3 items that we would be glad to see addressed:

1) Noise considerations do not appear to be a major component of Act 250. I am referring to the impact on the soundscape of any proposed project. Fifty years ago, the tools to measure and model the noise from HVAC, traffic, etc did not exist. They do now, and should be part of this process.

2) It seems that the Adjacency Rule is completely inadequate for triggering Act 250 notice when it comes to noise/sound issues. There are a lot of adjacent properties that are much further (or protected from) noise sources in our particular case.

3) Notification via online forums (such as Front Porch Forum) or an opt-in email listserve would be much more effective than newspaper notices. Local newspapers continue to reach fewer and fewer individuals.

It would be relatively simple to set up a series of geographically defined opt-in email listserves for the receipt of notifications by interested parties. They would require minimal maintenance once they were established.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rich

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