

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority

April 25, 2019

Proposed amendment to H.513

Section 11 Study; Feasibility of Electric Companies Offering Broadband in Vermont

(a) The Commissioner of Public Service shall study the feasibility of Vermont electric companies providing broadband service using electric distribution and transmission infrastructure. Among other things, a feasibility determination shall address potential advantages of serving utilities' internal data needs and expanding fiber for providing broadband service, the compatibility of broadband service with existing electric service, the financial investment necessary to undertake the provision of broadband service identification of the unserved and underserved areas of the State where the provision of broadband service by an electric company appears feasible; the impact on electric rates, ~~and the financial risk to electric companies, and~~ any differences that may exist between electric companies. The Commissioner also shall address any financial consequences and any technical or safety issues resulting from attaching communications facilities in the electric safety space as opposed to the communications space of distribution infrastructure.

(b) In performing the feasibility study required by this section, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Public Utility Commission, shall consider regulatory barriers to the provision of broadband service by electric companies, and shall develop legislative proposals to address those barriers. In addition, the Commissioner, in collaboration with representatives from each electric company ~~representatives~~, shall evaluate whether it is in the public interest and also in the interest of electric companies for electric companies to:

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