

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred Senate Bill No. 267
3 entitled “An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be
5 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu
6 thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8005 is amended to read:

8 § 8005. RES CATEGORIES

9 (a) Categories. This section specifies three categories of required resources
10 to meet the requirements of the RES established in section 8004 of this title:
11 total renewable energy, distributed renewable generation, and energy
12 transformation.

13 (1) Total renewable energy.

14 * * *

15 (B) Required amounts. The amounts of total renewable energy
16 required by this subsection shall be ~~55~~ 59 percent of each retail electricity
17 provider’s annual retail electric sales during the year beginning on January 1,
18 ~~2017~~ 2020, increasing by an additional ~~four~~ 8.2 percent each ~~third~~ second
19 January 1 thereafter, until reaching ~~75~~ 100 percent on and after January 1, ~~2032~~
20 2030.

21 * * *

1 (2) Distributed renewable generation.

2 * * *

3 (B) Definition. As used in this section, “distributed renewable
4 generation” means one of the following:

5 (i) a renewable energy plant that is new renewable energy; has a
6 plant capacity of five MW or less; and

7 (I) is directly connected to the subtransmission or distribution
8 system of a Vermont retail electricity provider; or

9 (II) is directly connected to the transmission system of an
10 electric company required to submit a Transmission System Plan under
11 subsection 218c(d) of this title, if the plant is part of a plan approved by the
12 Commission to avoid or defer a transmission system improvement needed to
13 address a transmission system reliability deficiency identified and analyzed in
14 that Plan; ~~or~~

15 (ii) a net metering system approved under the former section 219a
16 or under section 8010 of this title if the system is new renewable energy and
17 the interconnecting retail electricity provider owns and retires the system’s
18 environmental attributes; or

19 (iii) a hydroelectric renewable energy plant that has a plant
20 capacity of five MW or less and is owned and operated by a retail electricity

1 provider that is a municipal electric utility as of January 1, 2020, including any
2 future modifications.

3 (C) Required amounts.

4 (i) The required amounts of distributed renewable generation shall
5 be one percent of each retail electricity provider's annual retail electric sales
6 during the year beginning on January 1, 2017, increasing by an additional
7 three-fifths of a percent each subsequent January 1 until reaching 10 percent on
8 and after January 1, 2032.

9 (ii) In addition to the required amounts of distributed renewable
10 generation pursuant to subdivision (i) of this subdivision (C), the required
11 amounts of distributed renewable generation shall be an additional one percent
12 of each retail electricity provider's annual retail electric sales during the year
13 beginning on January 1, 2023, increasing by an additional one percent each
14 subsequent January 1 until reaching 10 percent on and after January 1, 2032.
15 This distributed renewable generation shall use technologies, including
16 storage, that maximize grid resilience and shall be located in a manner that
17 maximizes grid efficiency.

18 (D) ~~Distributed~~ Petitions to employ distributed generation greater
19 than five MW or other renewable generation.

20 (i) On petition of a retail electricity provider, the Commission may
21 for a given year allow the provider to employ energy with environmental

1 attributes attached or tradeable renewable energy credits from a renewable
2 energy plant with a plant capacity greater than five MW to satisfy the
3 distributed renewable generation ~~requirement~~ requirements pursuant to
4 subdivisions (2)(C)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (a) if the plant would qualify
5 as distributed renewable generation but for its plant capacity and the provider
6 demonstrates that it is unable during that year to meet the requirement solely
7 with qualifying renewable energy plants of five MW or less. To demonstrate
8 this inability, the provider shall issue one or more requests for proposals, and
9 show that it is unable to obtain sufficient ownership of environmental attributes
10 to meet its required amount under this subdivision (2) from:

11 ~~(i)~~(I) the construction and interconnection to its system of
12 distributed renewable generation that is consistent with its approved least-cost
13 integrated resource plan under section 218c of this title at a cost less than or
14 equal to the sum of the applicable alternative compliance payment rate and the
15 applicable rates published by the Department under the Commission's rules
16 implementing subdivision 209(a)(8) of this title; and

17 ~~(ii)~~(II) purchase of tradeable renewable energy credits for
18 distributed renewable generation at a cost that is less than the applicable
19 alternative compliance rate.

20 (ii) On petition of a retail electricity provider, the Commission
21 may for a given year allow the provider to employ energy with environmental

1 attributes attached or tradeable renewable energy credits to satisfy the
2 distributed renewable generation requirements pursuant to subdivision
3 (2)(C)(ii) of this subsection (a) if the provider demonstrates that it is unable
4 during that year to meet the requirement at a cost that is less than the
5 applicable alternative compliance rate with:

6 (I) distributed renewable generation; or

7 (II) a renewable energy plant that would qualify as distributed
8 renewable generation pursuant to subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (a)
9 except for the fact the plant has a capacity of five MW or greater.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 2. INTERCONNECTION MAPS

12 A retail electricity provider and Vermont Electric Power Company shall
13 provide a GIS-based interconnection map depicting the location and capacity
14 of existing substations and circuits and noting any significant impediments to
15 interconnection to the Commission, which shall make them available to
16 municipalities, developers, and other relevant persons as appropriate to assist
17 in determining the appropriate location for new renewable generation. Retail
18 electricity providers and Vermont Electric Power Company shall update the
19 maps not less than quarterly or on a more frequent schedule set by the
20 Commission.

1 Sec. 3. STUDIES AND REPORTS

2 (a) The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), in conjunction with the
3 Department of Public Service, shall conduct a full life-cycle analysis of the
4 total greenhouse gases emitted during the planning, construction, and operation
5 of hydroelectric renewable energy plants with a capacity of 200 MW or more
6 that are within the supply portfolio of a Vermont retail electricity provider.
7 ANR shall submit a written report on its findings to the General Assembly on
8 or before January 20, 2021.

9 (b) The Public Utility Commission may recommend a process to improve
10 the interconnection and Section 248 approval process for renewable energy
11 generation so that developers can better predict the type of generation and
12 location on the grid where renewable generation would be most beneficial, and
13 where it would help to minimize transmission, interconnection, and other costs.

14 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

16

17 (Committee vote: _____)

18

19

Senator _____

20

FOR THE COMMITTEE