

**No. 39. An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement.**

(S.1)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8009 is amended to read:

§ 8009. BASELOAD RENEWABLE POWER PORTFOLIO

REQUIREMENT

(a) ~~As used in~~ As used in this section:

(1) “Baseload renewable power” means a plant that generates electricity from renewable energy; that, during normal operation, is capable of taking all or part of the minimum load on an electric transmission or distribution system; and that produces electricity essentially continuously at a constant rate.

(2) “Baseload renewable power portfolio requirement” means ~~an annual average of 175,000 MWh~~ the actual output of baseload renewable power from an in-state woody biomass plant that was commissioned prior to September 30, 2009, has a nominal capacity of 20.5 MW, and was in service as of January 1, 2011.

(3) “Biomass” means organic nonfossil material of biological origin constituting a source of renewable energy within the meaning of subdivision 8002~~(17)~~(21) of this title.

(4) [Repealed.]

(b) Notwithstanding subsection 8004(a) and subdivision 8005~~(d)~~(c)(1) of this title, commencing November 1, 2012, ~~the electricity supplied by each~~

Vermont retail electricity ~~to its customers~~ provider shall ~~include~~ purchase the provider's pro rata share of the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement, which shall be based on the total Vermont retail kWh sales of all such providers for the previous calendar year. The obligation created by this subsection shall cease on November 1, ~~2022~~ 2024.

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## Sec. 2. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION ORDER EXTENSION

All decisions and orders of the former Public Service Board and the Public Utility Commission in the matter Investigation into the Establishment of a Standard-Offer Price for Baseload Renewable Power under the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development (SPEED) Program, Docket No. 7782, shall remain in full force and effect through October 31, 2024. For years 2023 and 2024, the purchase price shall be the levelized value determined in Docket No. 7782.

## Sec. 3. BASELOAD RENEWABLE POWER PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT; COLOCATION REPORT

On or before January 15, 2023, the owner of the baseload renewable power plant subject to 30 V.S.A. § 8009(b) shall report to the General Assembly on whether a project utilizing the excess thermal energy generated by the plant has been developed and is operational, or when a project utilizing the excess thermal energy generated by the plant will be operational.

Sec. 4. PLANT CLOSURE CONTINGENCY PLAN

On or before March 1, 2022, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development in consultation with the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation shall report to the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs, and Finance and the House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry, Commerce and Economic Development, and Energy and Technology a contingency plan to address how to reduce the economic impacts that may occur if the baseload renewable power plant closes. The plan shall address how to remediate harm to the workforce impacted by the closure of the plant, the forestry industry, and forest health. The contingency plan shall be developed in consultation with the Northern Vermont Development Association, a Vermont resident selected by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation who works in the forestry industry from the Ryegate lumber catchment area, and the owners of the Ryegate Plant. On or before July 1, 2021, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall render to the owners of the Ryegate Plant a statement for \$10,000.00 to be used on the creation of the contingency plan, which the owners of the Ryegate Plant shall pay within 30 days. The group of stakeholders developing the plan shall hold at least one evening public hearing on the plan in the lumber catchment area.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: May 20, 2021