

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Energy and Technology to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 161 entitled “An act relating to extending the baseload renewable
4 power portfolio requirement” respectfully reports that it has considered the
5 same and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be
6 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu
7 thereof the following:

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

9 § 8009. BASELOAD RENEWABLE POWER PORTFOLIO
10 REQUIREMENT

11 * * *

12 (b) Notwithstanding subsection 8004(a) and subdivision 8005(c)(1) of this
13 title, commencing November 1, 2012, each Vermont retail electricity provider
14 shall purchase the provider’s pro rata share of the baseload renewable power
15 portfolio requirement, which shall be based on the total Vermont retail kWh
16 sales of all such providers for the previous calendar year. The obligation
17 created by this subsection shall cease on November 1, ~~2024~~ 2032 unless
18 terminated earlier pursuant to subsection (k) of this section.

19 * * *

20 (d) ~~The~~ On or before November 1, 2026, the Commission shall determine,
21 for the period beginning on November 1, 2026 and ending on November 1,

1 2032, the price to be paid to a plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable
2 power portfolio requirement. The Commission shall not be required to make
3 this determination as a contested case under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. The price
4 shall be the avoided cost of the Vermont composite electric utility system. ~~It~~
5 As used in this subsection, the term “avoided cost” means the incremental cost
6 to retail electricity providers of electric energy or capacity, or both, which, but
7 for the purchase from the plant proposed to satisfy the baseload renewable
8 power portfolio requirement, such providers would obtain from a source using
9 the same generation technology as the proposed plant. ~~It~~ For the purposes of
10 this subsection, the term “avoided cost” also includes the Commission’s
11 consideration of each of the following:

- 12 (1) The relevant cost data of the Vermont composite electric utility
13 system.
- 14 (2) The terms of the potential contract, including the duration of the
15 obligation.
- 16 (3) The availability, during the system’s daily and seasonal peak
17 periods, of capacity or energy from a proposed plant.
- 18 (4) The relationship of the availability of energy ~~or~~, capacity, renewable
19 energy credits and attributes, and other ISO New England market products and
20 services from the proposed plant to the ability of the Vermont composite
21 electric utility system or a portion thereof to avoid costs. Vermont retail

1 electricity providers shall receive all output of the baseload renewable plant
2 unless the contract price is reduced to reflect the value of all products,
3 attributes, and services that are retained by the seller.

4 (5) The costs or savings resulting from variations in line losses from
5 those that would have existed in the absence of purchases from the proposed
6 plant.

7 (6) The supply and cost characteristics of the proposed plant, including
8 the costs of operation and maintenance of an existing plant during the term of a
9 proposed contract.

10 (7) Mechanisms for encouraging dispatch of the plant relative to the ISO
11 New England wholesale energy price and value of regional renewable energy
12 credits while also respecting the physical operating parameters, the fixed costs
13 of the proposed plant, and the impact on the forest economy.

14 (8) The appropriate assignment of risks associated with the ISO New
15 England Forward Capacity Market Pay for Performance program.

16 (e) In determining the price under subsection (d) of this section, the
17 Commission:

18 (1) may require a plant proposed to be used to satisfy the baseload
19 renewable power portfolio requirement to produce such information as the
20 Commission reasonably deems necessary;

1 credits and attributes or other ISO New England market products and services.
2 If the Commission approves the plant owner retaining renewable energy
3 credits and attributes, or other ISO New England market products and services,
4 the price paid by the Vermont retail electricity providers pursuant to this
5 section may be reduced by the Commission to reflect the value of those credits,
6 attributes, products, or services.

7 * * *

8 (5) A plant proposed to be used to satisfy the baseload renewable power
9 portfolio requirement shall only purchase whole tree chips and roundwood that
10 have been harvested in accordance with the terms of the certificate of public
11 good issued for the plant. For purchases of biomass from other states, the
12 biomass shall have been harvested in accordance with the laws of jurisdiction
13 where the harvesting occurred.

14 * * *

15 (j) The Commission shall authorize any Agency participating in a
16 proceeding pursuant to this section or an order issued under this section to
17 assess its costs against a proposed plant consistent with section 21 of this title.

18 (k) Collocation and efficiency requirements.

19 (1) On or before July 1, 2023, the owner of the plant used to satisfy the
20 baseload renewable power portfolio requirement shall submit to the
21 Commission and the Department:

1 (A) A signed contract providing for the construction of a facility at
2 the plant that utilizes the excess thermal heat generated at the plant for a
3 beneficial purpose. As used in this subdivision (A), beneficial purpose may
4 include the displacement of fossil fuel use for the sustainable production of a
5 product or service, or in more efficient or less costly generation of electricity.

6 (B) A certification by a qualified professional engineer that the
7 construction of the facility shall result in an increase in the overall efficiency of
8 the plant by at least 50 percent relative to July 1, 2022.

9 (2) On or before October 1, 2024, the owner of the plant shall submit to
10 the Commission and the Department a certification that the main components
11 of a facility that will cause the plant's overall efficiency to be increased by at
12 least 50 percent relative to July 1, 2022 have been completed.

13 (3) If the contract and certification required under subdivision (1) of this
14 subsection are not submitted to the Commission and Department on or before
15 July 1, 2023 or if the certification required under subdivision (2) of this
16 subsection is not submitted to the Commission and Department on or before
17 October 1, 2024, then the obligation under this section for each Vermont retail
18 electricity provider to purchase a pro rata share of the baseload renewable
19 power portfolio requirement shall cease on November 1, 2024, and the
20 Commission is not required to conduct the rate determination provided for in
21 subsection (d) of this section.

1 (4) On or before September 1, 2025, the Department shall investigate
2 and determine whether the overall efficiency of the plant used to satisfy the
3 baseload renewable power portfolio requirement has increased by at least 50
4 percent relative to July 1, 2022. If the Department determines that the overall
5 efficiency of the plant has not increased by at least 50 percent from the
6 efficiency as of July 1, 2022, then the obligation under this section shall cease
7 on November 1, 2025, and the Commission is not required to conduct the rate
8 determination provided for in subsection (d) of this section.

9 (5) After November 1, 2026, the owner of the plant shall report annually
10 to the Department and the Department shall verify the overall efficiency of the
11 plant. If the overall efficiency of the plant falls below the rate reported in
12 subdivision (4) of this subsection, the report shall include a plan to return the
13 plant to the rate reported in subdivision (4) within one year.

14 (6) If the owner of the plant does not comply with the plan required
15 under subdivision (5) of this subsection, the Department shall request that the
16 Commission commence a proceeding to terminate the obligation under this
17 section.

18 (7) The Department may retain research, scientific, or engineering
19 services to assist it in making the determination required under subsection (d)
20 of this section and in reviewing the information required under subsection (f)

1 of this section and may allocate the expense incurred or authorized by it to the
2 plant's owner.

3 (1) Annual report. On or before August 1, 2023, the owner of the plant
4 used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio shall report annually to
5 the House Committee on Energy and Technology and Senate Committee on
6 Finance, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and the Secretary
7 of Commerce and Community Development on the wood fuel purchases for
8 the plant. The report shall include the average monthly price paid for the wood
9 fuel and the source of the wood fuel, including location, number, types, and
10 sources of non-forest-derived wood.

11 Sec. 2. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 39, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 2. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION ORDER EXTENSION

13 All decisions and orders of the former Public Service Board and the Public
14 Utility Commission in the matter Investigation into the Establishment of a
15 Standard-Offer Price for Baseload Renewable Power under the Sustainably
16 Priced Energy Enterprise Development (SPEED) Program, Docket No. 7782,
17 shall remain in full force and effect through October 31, ~~2024~~ 2026. For years
18 ~~2023 and, 2024, and 2025~~ and the period from January 1, 2026 to October 31,
19 2026, the purchase price shall be the levelized value determined in Docket
20 No. 7782.

1 Sec. 3. REPORT; RYEGATE DECOMMISSIONING FUND

2 On or before January 15, 2023, the Public Utility Commission
3 (Commission) shall assess the current value of the Ryegate decommissioning
4 fund and determine if it is sufficient to cover the costs necessary to
5 decommission the plant. The Commission shall submit the report to the
6 General Assembly and include any recommendations.

7 Sec. 4. REPORT; WOOD FUEL PRICES

8 (a) On or before July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
9 Recreation and the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall
10 determine a minimum fair market price for wood fuel to be used by the plant
11 used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement. The
12 Commissioner may hire a forest economist and interview wood chip fuel
13 producers and examine their costs to determine a range in cost of production
14 that accounts for different equipment types, delivery distance, average wages
15 paid to employees, and return on investment of the enterprises.

16 (b) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may assess the
17 costs of hiring a consultant for the purposes of the report in subsection (a) of
18 this section on the owners of the baseload renewable power plant, up to
19 \$10,000.00.

20 **Sec. 5. HARVESTING PRACTICES**

1 The Secretary of Natural Resources shall review the adequacy and
2 effectiveness of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the
3 harvesting policy for Ryegate’s wood procurement. On or before July 1, 2023,
4 the Secretary shall recommend any necessary changes to the MOU.

5 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.

7
8
9 (Committee vote: _____)

10 _____
11 Representative _____

12 FOR THE COMMITTEE