

**Sunset Advisory Commission  
2022 Board and Commission Questionnaire**

**30 V.S.A. §5011 Vermont Public Power Supply Authority**

The Sunset Advisory Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

Please answer the following questions about the specific board or commission under review. If asked to testify before the Sunset Advisory Commission, please plan to provide concise recommendations regarding the continued operation of the board or commission under review and any revisions to its powers, duties, or membership.

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

*Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) is an organization that was established to provide such services as may be required in support of the activities of its member municipal utilities, such as: power aggregation, financial support, IT support, rate planning support, and legislative and regulatory representation. VPPSA is governed by its Board of Directors – the select board, trustees, or commissioners of each municipality appoints a director to sit on the Board.*

*The Board meets at least monthly, with Special meetings as and subcommittee meetings as necessary. Agendas and meeting minutes of Board meetings can be found on the [“Board of Directors” page](#) of the [VPPSA website](#).*

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

*VPPSA’s membership includes 11 municipal utilities within Vermont.*

- *Village of Enosburg Falls: John Dasaro*
- *Town of Hardwick Electric Department: Mike Sullivan*
- *Village of Ludlow Electric Light Dept: Tom Petraska*
- *Village of Lyndonville Electric Department: Jon Elwell*
- *Town of Northfield Electric Department: Steve Fitzhugh*
- *Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department: Scott Johnstone*
- *Incorporated Village of Orleans: John Morley*
- *Swanton Village, Inc: Reginald Beliveau*
- *Barton Village, Inc.: Patty Richards*

*Per statute, the term of office of a director is for one year coincident with the fiscal year of the Authority or until a successor director has been duly elected and qualified. Any director*

*may be removed at the pleasure of the legislative body of the municipality or cooperative which elected that director, upon notice to the authority and the election of a successor director.*

*No per diems are provided.*

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

*The Board of Directors governs VPPSA's activity. See Q1 for VPPSA's overall purpose.*

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

*Yes. VPPSA is essential to provide services to member municipal utilities who might not otherwise have the resources to provide services to on their own. The economies of scale that VPPSA provides also is a benefit to these smaller utilities, helping to keep their costs down.*

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

*VPPSA provides timely regulatory filings, managing power supply and other activities for its members. 11 municipal utilities continue to operate and provide benefits to their ratepayers. Alternatives for these utilities are to sell the utility to another entity or to acquire similar services from out-of-state. However, the former does not allow the community to continue to own its own utility, and out of state companies cannot provide the same sort of local insights (and often cost more).*

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

*No. VPPSA, as an instrumentality of the state, so bonds or notes issued by VPPSA are exempt from taxation (subject to IRS rules). VPPSA itself owns and operates a power plant, and participates in regional markets on behalf of its members. Moreover, it would be a substantial disruption to the municipal utilities to execute this purpose in a different manner.*

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose

*VPPSA services do not overlap with another State board or Commission or Federal or State agency. The Public Service Department is allowed to purchase wholesale power, like VPPSA, however that is the only area of overlap, and the PSD could not provide the advocacy, market participation, or other services that VPPSA provides.*

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

*Yes.*

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

*VPPSA is funded by its members. VPPSA's Annual and Financial Reports can be found [here](#).*

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

*No reports or studies are required.*