

Good morning, my name is Brian Evans-Mongeon, and I serve as the General Manager of the Village of Hyde Park, including its' electric water and wastewater utilities. Hyde Park Electric Department serves approximately 1300 customers in and around the Village of Hyde Park in Lamoille County.

I participated in the Legislative Study group on revising Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard. While the Group Report appropriately reflects many of the conversations discussed by the Group, in the end, I did not support the report as the proposals directing changes would adversely impact the customers of the Village of Hyde Park Electric Department.

Even though I have been serving as General Manager for only a few months now, Hyde Park Electric had set in place a power supply portfolio that matched the current Vermont Renewable requirements. These commitments were made in good faith based upon the prior legislative directives. If you implement some of the proposals being outlined in the Report or that could come from the Legislature's discussions, these changes are forecasted to represent a cost of over \$537,000 to the ratepayers of Hyde Park over the five-year period from 2030 to 2035. If you enact other provisions being asked for, such as Tier 1A and 1B, then our costs will further escalate. This projection is based upon today's known factors. If Massachusetts or other states enact further changes to their programs, then costs could go up more.

Over the 35 years I have spent in the electric industry, starting as hourly energy transaction agent at GMP, serving as the Power Supply and Transmission Manager at VPPSA in the 90s and early 2000s, and then running a electric consulting firm from 2007 to 2023, I have been actively engaged in the development and implementation of energy supply efforts using a diverse portfolio of resources, as that provides for the most balanced and stabilized approach to financial and electric reliability for customers. A balanced approach represents the use of all technologies (Wind, Water, Waste, Wood, Solar, Natural Gas, and Nuclear). These resource types make up the portfolio of Hyde Park Electric today.

Reliance on a shorter list of resources has been and will be considered bad planning. I do note that the renewable technology has improved substantially over the last several years, however, there are still operational imperfections and other financial and reliability issues that need to be further worked out. Since 2020, North America has observed many instances of outages (continent-wide) in the inverter-based technologies arena (this is driving much of the renewable and storage resources). These outages are due to issues relating to misapplication of standards requirements, health and safety, environmental, security, and supply chain concerns. I observed all of this when I served and Chaired the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) Planning Committee, and then on NERC's Reliability and Security Technology Committees and the Member Representative Committee advising the NERC Board of Trustees. Additionally, I serve on the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) which provides for oversight on business policies and practices for the electric and gas industries. My engagement within these groups has shown me that the shift to rely greatly on renewables is not yet pragmatic or sustainable on a financial or reliable basis.

In starting at Hyde Park, I have also come to realize that our transmission and distribution infrastructure is also not yet ready to support a deeper penetration of localized generation resources. Our system was built to support delivery of electricity to customers. The addition of local generation means that the infrastructure needs to adapt to being a pass-through from generation to the outside world. This will likely drive modifications and rebuilding of some parts of the distribution systems.

Lastly, I have to pass along that the potential for adding more tiers or advancing requirements for the existing Tiers will add to the administrative requirements for our small 7 employee staff. Transactions in the amounts that Hyde Park will need will be difficult to secure as sellers are more likely to ignore smaller entities. Market changes in New England are also likely to affect resource and REC pricing. Sellers usually require financial instruments for conducting the sale and those instruments can be hard to come by.

For all of these reasons, I voted against supporting the Group Report as it would mean higher costs in many ways for the constituency of Hyde Park Electric Department.

I am happy to address any questions.

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