



*163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, Vermont 05446*

January 15, 2024

To: House Committee on Environment and Energy
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Green Mountain Power (GMP) provides the following report pursuant to Sec. 19d of Act 47 of 2023, “Electric Distribution Utility Project Report.” Act 47 of 2023 created a temporary exemption from Act 250 for the purpose of allowing a distribution utility to rebuild distribution lines and related facilities to “improve reliability and service to existing customers, through overhead or underground lines in existing corridor, road, or State or town right-of-way.” Projects completed under this exemption will continue to be subject to any and all existing permits required, as well as adhering to best management practices established with the Agency of Natural Resources.

This report specifically outlines for each project:

- The location of the project, including whether it is located in a “one-acre town” or a “10-acre town;”
- How many customers are affected by the project;
- Whether the project involved lines being hardened in place, buried underground, or relocated to the right-of-way;
- How many poles were removed and how many poles were set; and
- What permits the project was required to receive.

Act 47 was signed into law by the Governor on June 5, 2023 with Sec. 19b, containing the exemption, effective July 1, 2023. Work commenced on projects in the summer and before the end of the construction season four projects were complete.

These four projects completed in 2023 directly benefit more than 1,300 customers. Even more customers indirectly benefit, through important storm hardening that prevents outages or supports our response during storms. These projects will help keep people safe. Without the exemption in place, they would not have been completed in time for the current 2023/2024 winter storm season. GMP has 12 more projects in progress which will improve reliability for additional customers and be included in our 2024 report.

Since GMP last testified on this subject, we filed our Zero Outages Initiative (ZOI) before the Public Utility Commission. Case No. 23-3501-PET. The ZOI initiative builds on work we are already doing and that has shown it reduces outages for customers. When combined, our ZOI

will accelerate these proven solutions and create an energy system by 2030 where customers experience zero outages. The three key parts of this initiative include:

- Undergrounding lines in many areas;
- Storm hardening above-ground lines with insulated, stronger cables; and
- Expanding energy storage for all.

This work addresses the impacts of climate change head on. If approved and implemented, the Zero Outages Initiative will ensure all GMP customers see this work in their community, no matter where they live. The narrow Act 250 exemption that was passed in Act 47 has allowed for the exact types of projects we plan to do as part of the ZOI. Making this exemption permanent is a key part of how we can achieve our goal by 2030 for customers.

Attached please find a spreadsheet that captures the data as requested for the completed projects. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Candace Morgan
Director of Corporate Affairs

cc: Natural Resources Board
Agency of Natural Resources

Project Details					Construction Details					Permitting Requirements					
GMP Project #	Project Description	Customer Count	Location	Project In-Service	Harden In Place	URD	Relocated to ROW	New Poles Set	Poles Retired	A250 Town Type	Wetlands	Streams	RTE	SHPO	State or Local Road
178523	Route 30 - Townshend/Newfane L3 (P827 - 857)	182	Townshend	Nov-23	Yes - rebuilt to new overhead Hendrix	N/A	N/A	26	25	1-Acre	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	Yes, VTRANS 1111 Permit Received
159126	Route 30 - Townshend/Newfane L5 (657-676)	583	Townshend	Dec-23	Yes - rebuilt to new overhead Hendrix	N/A	N/A	20	16	1-Acre	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Project is rebuild of existing overhead VT Route 30 roadside corridor, GMP BMPs deployed	Yes, VTRANS 1111 Permit Received
166684	State Forest Rd - VH4A West Hill Rd (P1X - P27)	289	Townshend	Dec-23	Relocated to Road and 95% buried - Cable-in-Conduit (CIC), all rebuilt overhead is new Hendrix	21,647	Yes	32	17	1-Acre	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	Yes, Townshend Selectboard Permit under VT Title 30/19 VSA 1111
167068	VH4A - West Hill Rd to Townshend Dam Rd (P27 - P80)	262	Townshend	Dec-23	Relocated to Road and 95% buried - Cable-in-Conduit (CIC), all rebuilt overhead is new Hendrix	13,614	Yes	0	37	1-Acre	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	No permitting required - Existing off-road corridors moved to the road corridor, rebuilt line embedded in the road and select (existing) overhead corridors maintained to fly over restricted resource areas, GMP BMPs deployed	Yes, Townshend Selectboard Permit under VT Title 30/19 VSA 1111