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H.710

An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities

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

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8002 is amended to read:

§ 8002. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(18) “Plant” means an independent technical facility that generates electricity from renewable energy. ~~A group of facilities, such as wind turbines, shall be considered one plant if the group is part of the same project and uses common equipment and infrastructure such as roads, control facilities, and connections to the electric grid. Common ownership, contiguity in time of construction, and proximity of facilities to each other shall be relevant to determining whether a group of facilities is part of the same project.~~ Multiple electricity-generating facilities, regardless of when each is constructed, shall be considered one plant if the facilities use the same electricity-generating technology and are located on the same parcel or contiguous parcels of land. Such facilities shall only be considered separate plants if they meet one of the following exceptions:

(A) Exception for individual net-metering and self-consumption.

Applies if the facilities:

1 premiums, maintenance, or improvement of, or services or other expenses
2 related to common elements, other units, or other real estate than that unit
3 described in the declaration.

4 (34) “Contiguous” means sharing a property boundary with another
5 parcel of land or being adjacent to that parcel of land and the two parcels are
6 separated only by a road, recreation path, railway line, stream, or river.

7 (35) “Electricity-generating technology” means a method or system
8 used to convert energy from one form into electric power, including wind,
9 hydropower or water, solar, or biomass.

10 (36) “Point of interconnection” means the point on the interconnecting
11 utility’s existing distribution system to which a facility proposes to
12 interconnect.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.