

Public Utility Commission

Definition of
“plant” in 30
V.S.A. § 8002(18)

Prepared for presentation to the Vermont Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy

March 19, 2026

Act 38 of 2025

- Commission must provide a recommended amended definition of “plant”
- Engagement with participants and interested parties
- Must consider
 - the land use benefits of co-location of energy generation facilities;
 - the ability to ensure comprehensive review of co-located facilities; and
 - the potential impacts to ratepayers associated with co-located facilities.



The Commission's Process

- June 30, 2025: Opened a Commission proceeding (25-1253-INV)
 - Commission sought definitions of “plant”
 - Commission put out statutory language and a proposal regarding a decommissioning fund
- Received two rounds of written comments
- Held two workshops (one on each topic)
- Provided for final comment on the Commission's proposed amended definition of “plant”



Recommended Amended Definition of “Plant”

New standard

- Same or contiguous parcels
- Same electricity-generating technology

Exceptions

- Individual residential net-metering (neighbors)
- Multi-owner individual residential net-metering (common interest communities)
- More than one renewable-energy-program facility

Definitions

- Common interest community
- Contiguous
- Electricity-generating technology
- Point of interconnection

Exception (C)

“Plant” means an independent technical facility that generates electricity from renewable energy. 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.

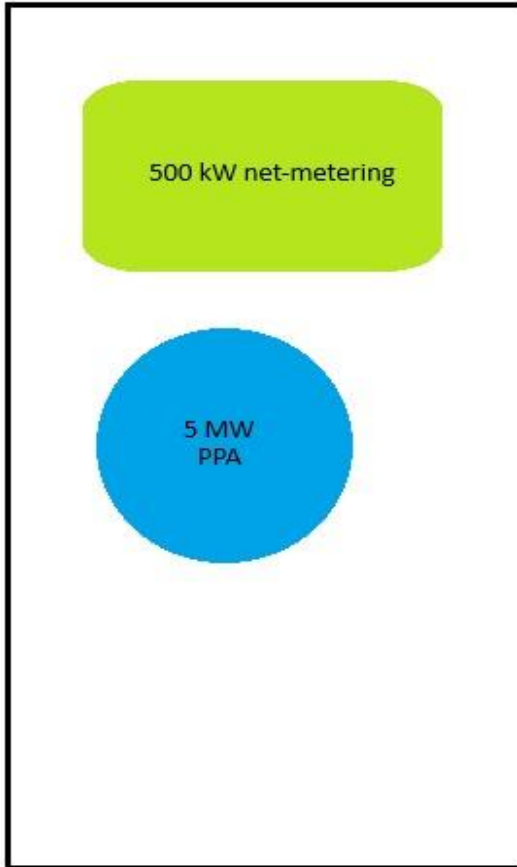
Such facilities shall only be considered separate plants if they meet one of the following exceptions:

(C) Exception for colocation of facilities other than net-metering program or Standard Offer Program facilities. Applies if the facilities have separate points of interconnection if:

- (i) a net-metering facility and a Standard Offer Program facility are not sited on the same parcel or contiguous parcels; and
- (ii) the statutory capacity cap for the net-metering program or the Standard Offer Program is not exceeded on the same parcel or contiguous parcels.

What can be sited (under the new definition)

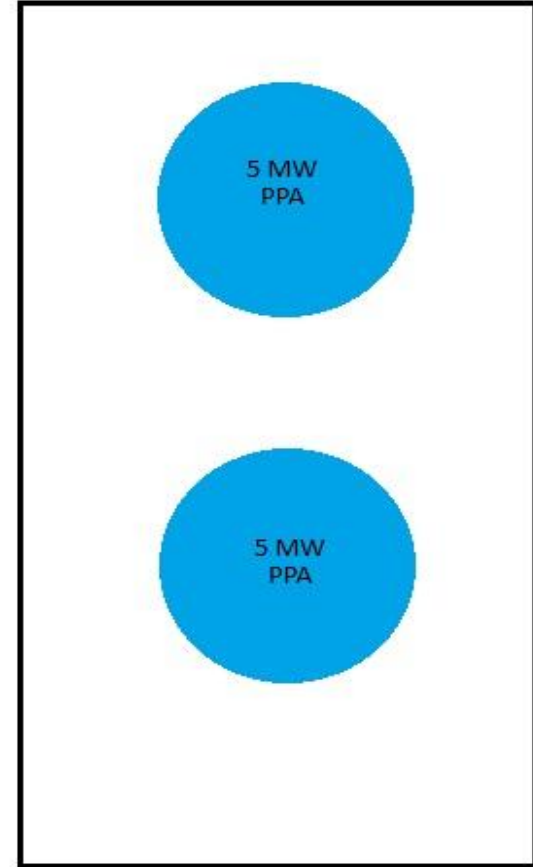
A



B



C



What can't be
sited
(under the new
definition)

500 kW net-metering

2.2 MW Standard
Offer Program

Questions & Comments

