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# Interconnection of Renewable Energy in Vermont

Mary Jo Krolewski, Utilities Analyst  
Vermont Public Service Board

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# Regulatory Review Process

- Before issuing a certificate of public good, Vermont Public Service Board must find that the facility:
  - Will not interfere with the orderly development of the region (due consideration of local planning bodies)
  - Is required to meet present or future demand for service
  - Will not adversely affect system stability and reliability
  - Will result in an economic benefit to the state and its residents
  - Will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, and public health and safety
  - Is consistent with company's integrated resource plan
  - Complies with the State Energy Office Electric Plan
  - Does not impact "Outstanding Resource Waters"
  - Can be served economically by existing or planned transmission facilities without undue adverse impact on utilities or customers

# Regulatory Review Process

- Applicant submits sufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance with criteria
  - Public hearing and Site Visit
  - Evidentiary hearing
- Dockets may include a settlement or a fully litigated case
  - Ratepayer advocate and environmental agencies typically automatic party to any case
  - Intervenors may include environmental, industrial, and public interest groups

# Simplified review process in Vermont

- Facilities “of limited size and scope”
  - Interested parties provided notice and opportunity for comment
  - No need for public or evidentiary hearing
- Facilities with a capacity of 2.2 MW or less
  - Certain criteria are waived
- Facilities with a capacity of 150 kW or less
  - Simplified application and review process

## Interconnection Requirements

- All generators smaller than 5 MW follow Board requirements
  - Board Rule 5.500, includes Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer standards
  - Fast Track procedures
- May require Feasibility Study/System Impact Study
- Interconnection Agreement

# Interconnection Requirements

- All generators larger than 5 MW follow ISO-NE requirements
  - Schedule 23 for large generators (> 20 MW)
  - Schedule 22 for small generators
- Requires Feasibility Study/System Impact Study
- Interconnection Agreement

# Interconnection Concerns for Renewables

- Costs dependent on location
- Need for additional reserves
- Scheduling and curtailment
- Impact on traditional generators
  - Operational – cycling may decrease plant life
  - Economic – decreased revenues

## More Information

- Vermont Statutes – Title 30: Public Service
  - <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutesMain.cfm>
- Board Rules on Interconnection
  - <http://psb.vermont.gov/statutesrulesandguidelines/currentrules>
- ISO-NE Procedures on Interconnection
  - [http://www.iso-ne.com/genrtion\\_resrcs/nwgen\\_inter/lg\\_gen/index.html](http://www.iso-ne.com/genrtion_resrcs/nwgen_inter/lg_gen/index.html)
  - [http://www.iso-ne.com/genrtion\\_resrcs/nwgen\\_inter/smgen\\_20/index.html](http://www.iso-ne.com/genrtion_resrcs/nwgen_inter/smgen_20/index.html)