## **Energy Siting Initiatives in VT**



VT Department of Public Service

## **Regional Energy Planning Initiative**

- Follows recommendations of 2012-13 Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission
- DPS supporting 11 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to undertake comprehensive energy planning (electric, thermal, and transportation sectors)
- Plans will align with VT's 2016 Comprehensive Energy Plan 90 by 2050 goal
- Staggered contracts; first draft plans coming in now, all will be complete by early 2018.



## Bennington Regional Planning: Needs Analysis



## **Bennington Region: Generation Modeling**

## NEW IN-STATE ELECTRICITY GENERATION 2010 – 2050

	YEAR	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION (GWh)	NEW HYDRO (MW)	NEW WIND (MW)	NEW SOLAR (MW)
VERMONT	<b>2</b> 01 <b>0</b>	5,623			
	2025	6,991	25	<b>20</b> 0	445
	2035	8,073	50	<b>40</b> 0	926
	20 <b>50</b>	10,044	93	<b>40</b> 0	1,647
BCRC REGION	201 <b>0</b>	318	-		-
	2025	381	1	16	24
	2035	421	1	28	48
	205 <b>0</b>	473	1	28	85

## **Bennington Region: Solar Potential** Mapping

## **SOLAR MAP**

- Prime Solar = Yellow
- Includes Level 2 Constraints







#### Bennington Region: Solar Need Vs. Resource



## **Other Siting Initiatives**

- S.230 Passed by Legislature in May
  - Builds on Regional Energy Planning Initiative
  - Regions/Towns with approved plans get substantial deference in proceedings
- .Net Metering Overhaul
  - Draft Rule PSB working on final.
  - Draft contains siting adjustors
  - Siting adjustors range from +1 to -3 cents/kWh.
  - Streamlined permitting process for projects on preferred locations.

## **Transmission Projects for Reliability**

- Projects cannot be approved by the Public Service Board if demand for service cannot be met more cost effectively through energy efficiency, demand response, distributed generation
- Vermont System Planning Committee
  - Created in 2007
  - Consists of Transmission Owner, all Distribution Utilities, environmental and business interests
- Creates a public, transparent process for forecasting reliability needs and potential non-transmission alternatives

## **Merchant Transmission Projects**

- New England Clean Power Link TDI
  - 1,000 MW DC line, approved in January 2016
  - Consists of 100 miles under Lake Champlain, 60 miles buried along road or RR rights of way, and a converter station
  - Extensive meetings with towns before filing resulted in MOUs with all parties to the case
  - Technical hearing lasted 45 minutes (less than most small solar cases)
- Vermont Green Line Anbaric/National Grid
  - 400 MW DC line, expected to be filed with Vermont PSB in near future
  - 60 miles, underground in Vermont and New York, with converter stations at each end

# Takeaways from Transmission Siting in VT

- Talk with the affected communities early and often
- Expect to pay more upfront in mitigation costs instead of later in litigation costs and project delays
- Clearly explain the rationale for the project, including alternatives considered
- Provide tangible benefits to impacted communities, particularly when the impact is disproportionate to the benefit

#### **Questions?**

Christopher Recchia, Commissioner VT Public Service Department <u>Chris.recchia@Vermont.gov</u> (802) 828-4071