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**VERMONT PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS BOARD COMMITTEE**
(numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers)

June 12, 2017

(1) The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. via conference call.

Committee Directors present (X indicates present):

X	John Morley, III (by phone)	X	Meredith Birkett, Johnson (by phone)
X	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton (by phone)	X	Jonathan Elwell, Enosburg (by phone)

Other Directors present:

Alternates present:

Others present:

Ken Nolan, VPPSA	Melissa Bailey, VPPSA	Jamie Feehan, Primmer (by phone)
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(2) This call was scheduled as a carryover from the May 17th Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting for the sole purpose of receiving a legislative update from VPPSA lobbyist Jamie Feehan. This was the only agenda item.

Regarding the status of General Assembly and legislative calendar, Jamie informed the committee that the Legislature will be convening for a veto session on June 21 and 22 to discuss the Budget Bill, H. 509 addressing the education tax, and potentially marijuana legalization. Legislators had not been able to reach agreement with the Governor prior to adjournment, but will be looking to do so before the stat fiscal year ends on June 30th.

Jamie then summarized the bills that were relevant to electric utilities this past session. The Public Service Board's Net Metering Rulemaking has the most significant energy-related legislation this session, with a bill authorizing the Public Service Board's (PSB) proposed net metering rule to move forward passing in the final weeks of the session.

Bill S.52 called for a "freeze" on new exemptions from the Standard Offer Program through calendar year 2019, but allows the exemptions of BED, WEC, and Swanton to remain in effect. The bill mandates several studies and also changes the PSB name to "Public Utility Commission."

S.34 was a bill on Rural Economic Development that includes a requirement for the Public Service Department to conduct a study and report on whether and how to increase use of

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self-administered efficiency programs by commercial and industrial customers, including potential relief from the energy efficiency charge.

H.494, the Transportation Bill, included language on utility infrastructure relocation for transportation projects in the utility right-of-way. Reg Beliveau asked who pays for the utility to relocate its poles and lines in these instances. John Morley said that, in his experience, these costs were included in the project budget and paid by VTrans. Jamie agreed to send the specific bill language to Melissa to distribute to the group.

The budget bill is expected to include \$300,000 from electric utility billback for Regional Planning Commissions to perform energy planning work in order to be consistent with the state's Comprehensive Energy Plan.

Two utility-related bills received attention but ultimately did not pass this session. S.51 would have codified the state's Renewable Energy Goal of 90% by 2050 in statute. H. 92 would have given the Agency of Natural Resources jurisdiction over dam safety, but that bill never made it out of the House Ways and Means Committee. These bills could re-emerge next session.

Jamie noted that Anthony Roisman had been appointed by the Governor to serve as Chair of the Public Service Board. He is largely unknown in the utility community.

John Morley asked whether this Governor has indicated any desire to have fewer utilities in the state, as some past Republican governors had. Jamie had not heard this topic broached, and noted that the coops and municipal electric utilities provide some balance against the one, large investor-owned utility.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey, Acting Secretary
Legislative & Regulatory Committee

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