

Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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April 4, 2008

Mrs. Susan M. Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Vermont Electric Cooperative / Comments re: Rule 3.700 Revised Amendments

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

Please accept this letter as the comments of Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("VEC") on the revised draft amendments to PSB Rule 3.700, pursuant to Hearing Officer Bentley's request by email on March 21, 2008, providing for comments from parties by April 4, 2008.

3.703 Tariff Required

As the effective date of the approved amended rule is undetermined, VEC seeks clarification of the requirement of Section 3.703 that "Each Pole-Owning Utility shall file a pole attachment tariff with the Board." Does the Board envision a certain time frame within which the filing of conforming tariffs should occur?

3.704 Contracts for Cost, Maintenance, and Use of Poles

Section 3.704(A)(2) provides that "Unexpired contracts on the effective date of this Rule between Attaching Entities and Pole-Owning Utilities shall remain in effect until they expire according to their terms." Are the "contracts" referred to limited to special contracts approved under 30 V.S.A. §229, or is there a broader interpretation of such contracts possible?

3.706 Rental Calculation

VEC notes that Section 3.706(D) does not quantify the "space occupied by attachment" that would apply to the appurtenances associated with the attachment of wireless facilities. VEC does not currently require policy guidance governing the attachment of wireless antennae, nodes, repeaters, and such. However, we suspect that as wireless telephony and broadband, in various forms and technologies, are ubiquitously deployed throughout Vermont, associated pole

attachment issues are likely to arise.¹ While Section 3.707(A)(4) provides for authorized use for broadband service and wireless telephone providers within or above the electric supply space, the proposed rule appears not to address the rental calculation thereto.

Finally, VEC has reviewed the comments of the Department of Public Service dated March 27, 2008. We agree with the corrections proposed regarding the definition of a broadband service provider. We also agree, as stated above, that revisions are needed to the language about attachments in or above the electric supply space. We would welcome further discussion on this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Very truly yours,



Randy Pratt
Manager of Government Relations

cc: Service List

¹ Unless a certain man from Porlock returns from the future to rescue us from this pole attachment dream.