

## **Memo**

**To: Vermont State Public Service Board**

**From: Dummerston Conservation Commission**

**Re: Issues to be addressed concerning proposed VELCO transmission line and substation in Dummerston**

The Dummerston Conservation requests that the following questions be fully explored and appropriately addressed before decisions regarding the proposed VELCO power line and substation in Dummerston.

1. When and how will VELCO conduct a detailed and thorough environmental impact study of this project? How will the results of such a study affect project implementation?
2. In choosing this site, what consideration has VELCO given to protection of the avian species diversity (94 species) including 9 species in need of conservation, at least 11 mammal species, and numerous reptiles and amphibian species, the destruction of a critical wildlife corridor, and to the deer yard on the site that was identified by the state department of fish and game?
3. What consideration has VELCO given to the designation of this site as one of six large parcels identified by the Windham Regional Commission as of regional natural resource significance?
4. What consideration has VELCO given to the nationally, regionally and locally significant historical and cultural resources of this site?
5. Has VELCO considered that this is an archaeologically sensitive site (glacial lake shoreline) and that ancient pottery shards have been found in the region?
6. How does VELCO propose to deal with the ecologically sensitive geologic underpinnings of the site and the effects of this project on the watershed?
7. How does VELCO plan to address the disruption and destruction of educational and arts related activities at this site that have been on-going since 1918, and the loss of this site as a community resource if this plan is implemented?
8. How will VELCO address the proliferation of invasive species destruction of critical habitat that will result from a clear cut?
9. How will the use of herbicides and other substances used to keep the site clear affect the natural resources of this region?

10. What other possible sites and routes have been explored?

11. Is this power line needed? Would it be more cost effective to develop local and regional renewable energy resources and initiate intensive power conservation measures?

Mary Ellen Copeland, Chair

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