

## Overview of the VELCO Northwest Reliability Project (NRP)

VELCO (VT Electric Power Company, Rutland) has filed an application with the Vermont Public Service Board for a huge transmission plan called the Northwest Reliability Project. Part of this project is to erect 345,000-Volt (345-kV) lines through Rutland and Addison Counties, as well as add more 115-kV lines through Addison and Chittenden Counties. Why? To service greater Burlington, especially the use of air conditioners in the summer. The 345-kV lines would follow the path of the current 115-kV lines, but the 115-kV lines would not come down (see diagram on other side).

Towns most affected include **W. Rutland, Florence, Proctor Pittsford, Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Middlebury, New Haven, Monkton, Vergennes, Panton, Waltham, Ferrisburg, Charlotte, Shelburne and S. Burlington.** However, many other towns are slated for substation growth.

The cost of the NRP will be roughly \$130 million dollars. Who pays? Ratepayers, like you and me. NePool (the New England power-sharing pool run by electric utilities, nuclear facilities, etc., and supported by NE ratepayers) would pay for most of the NRP, but Vermont ratepayers would be paying in the millions. Is this a project you really want to support? Might there be better alternatives?

**As a citizen of Vermont, I support the use of demand-side management, energy efficiency, and clean-energy technologies as alternatives to the VELCO NRP transmission-line project. The NRP does not represent Vermonters' best interests. I encourage the Vermont Public Service Board to spend my dollars on projects that support conservation and greater energy self-sufficiency.**

Signature	Name	Date
Street	Town/City	
Signature	Name	Date
Street	Town/City	



The NRP presents an opportunity for Vermonters to speak up for what is good for us and our state; a time to “put our money where our mouths are” and change from the same old polluting ways to the use of cleaner technologies. With a little education, we can learn to monitor our energy use, to understand our own electrical loads and take responsibility for them. The single, most effective thing we can currently do for life on earth is put a halt to supporting energy options that create pollution and drive global warming.

Your voice needs to be heard now. Please sign and mail the enclosed post card today. The decision is in the hands of the Vermont Public Service Board. They need to know that Vermonters do not feel that the NRP transmission-line project is in our best interest and that we, as ratepayers, would prefer to put our money toward more socially responsible projects.



**References:**

- 1)Optimal Energy,Inc.,“Assessment of Economically Deliverable Transmission Capacity from Targeted Energy-Efficiency Investments in the Inner and Metro-Area and NorthwestandNorthwest/Central Load Zones,” Jan.29, 2003.
- 2)La Capra Associates,“Alternatives to VELCO’s NorthwestVermont Reliability Project,”Jan.29,2003.
- 3)VELCO,Inc.,Notification to the ACRPC of intentto filefull application to the VPSB, March 13,2003,and full application to VPSB,June 2003.
- 4)NE Power Pool,List ofNePool Participants,2003.
- 5)Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE,“EERE Network News,” various articles, 2003.