

## **Appendix C**

### **Draft EA Review and Comments**

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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF FLOODPLAIN ACTION

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and floodplain analysis to describe and evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the:

**City of Montpelier Combined Heat and Power and District Energy System  
DOE/EA-1814D**

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act*. The City of Montpelier is proposing to design, permit, and construct a combined heat and power (CHP) plant and district energy system to provide heat to State and City facilities in Montpelier, Vermont. The proposed CHP facility would be within the 100-year floodplain of the Winooski River. The City of Vermont would receive federal funding from DOE for the proposed project under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the draft EA for consideration by DOE by May 19, 2011. You can submit comments by either mail or email. Melissa Rossiter, Department of Energy's Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd, Golden, CO 80401 or by email to: [melissa.rossiter@go.doe.gov](mailto:melissa.rossiter@go.doe.gov).

The draft EA with appendices is available for your review on either the **DOE NEPA** or the **Golden Field Office** websites:

[http://nepa.energy.gov/draft\\_environmental\\_assessments.htm](http://nepa.energy.gov/draft_environmental_assessments.htm)

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading\\_Room.aspx](http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx)



## State of Vermont

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Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
Department of Environmental Conservation

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
103 South Main Street  
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May 23, 2011

Melissa Rossiter  
NEPA Document Manager  
Dept. of Energy  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, CO 80401  
[Melissa.rossiter@go.doe.gov](mailto:Melissa.rossiter@go.doe.gov)

Re: EA-1814D, Montpelier Biomass District Energy CHP System, Montpelier, VT

Dear Ms. Rossiter:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Assessment for the City of Montpelier's District Energy Facility. I apologize for the tardiness of this comment and hope you will accept it nonetheless.

As you are aware, several staff from the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources were involved in the scoping portion of this project. And as I've received no additional comment from most of them on the EA, it appears most concerns to date have been addressed. I did, however, receive one comment from the Agency's Natural Heritage Information Project which is part of the Fish & Wildlife Department. The comment noted the proximity of the project to the state threatened Eastern Pearlshell mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). It is unclear whether there will be any discharge of effluent water to the Winooski River in this area but NHIP notes that this mussel is a cold water species and effluent that may result in increased temperatures in the river would be a concern for the Agency. This species is protected under Vermont Endangered Species Law (10 V.S.A. Chap. 123).

A response to this concern would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeannine McCrumb'.

Jeannine McCrumb  
Regulatory Planning Analyst  
Office of Planning and Legal Affairs

c: Mark Ferguson, VT NHIP *via email*  
Amy Alfieri, VT Fish & Wildlife *via email*  
Jon Groveman, General Counsel VTANR *via email*

Regional Offices – Barre, Essex Jct., Pittsford, Rutland, Springfield, St. Johnsbury

From: Lawrence Copp [<mailto:ldc@epreconomics.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 2:07 PM  
To: Rossiter, Melissa  
Cc: Sandretto, Tom; Brian Halloran; [ghallsmith@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:ghallsmith@montpelier-vt.org)  
Subject: City of Montpelier District Energy System

Ms. Rossiter:

I am providing comments regarding the Environmental Assessment for the above referenced project on behalf of the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS), an interested party. BGS is the State of Vermont landlord. The State of Vermont owns and operates and is expected to own and operate the powerhouse component of the proposed District Heating System.

The State's comments are as follows:

1. The economic viability of including significant power generation in the proposed facility is under continuing review. The heat loads and load shape may or may not support CHP in the early years of the project. If CHP is not undertaken than the potential for impact will be lessened.
2. Boiler sizing will be matched to final estimates of load and load shape. The proposed boiler sizing shown includes CHP capability and significant reserve capability. Optimization of boilers without CHP and final engineered reserve capability will require slightly smaller boilers and produce less impacts than those shown.
3. The building size is subject to minor changes in response to final boiler configuration and fuel train engineering. No material change in total building volume is anticipated.
4. Backup fuel is identified as #6 fuel oil in the assessment. Engineering is examining the efficacy of using #2 fuel oil. Any potential impact of using #2 fuel oil will be less than that identified in the assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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