

1/8/08

## **VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #1 – 2008**

The Legislature reconvenes Tuesday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and in the second half of this biennium the legislative committees are already in motion with full agendas. Besides issues that carry over from last session such as the energy / climate change legislation, there are a slew of new bills - - including several of particular interest to planners.

The VPA Legislative Committee has scheduled its annual “Legislative Cracker Barrel” - for this Friday Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the State House, in the cafeteria at the large table (and if we have a larger turnout we will relocate within the building and some VPA member will be there with a sign to direct you) .

The early timing of our Cracker Barrel discussion is also designed to follow the Governor’s State of the State address, which will be on Thursday - - and to have this on a Friday early afternoon that is most likely to enable the key committee chairs and movers of legislation we are interested in to be able to attend and discuss these with planners.

VPA members have received an email from VPA President Polly McMurtry on Dec 28<sup>th</sup> that hopefully got this date on your calendars. That email included the VPA Legislative Policy Statement that was a product of our VPA Annual Meeting in November. Of course that Policy Statement is general and a snapshot at the time whereas legislation is very much a moving picture - - new legislation has since been introduced and the critical details of bills that we did develop general policy positions on may result in a change - - nevertheless this is a useful introduction to the planning –related issues that we were following and anticipating as of November.

I want to thank the VPA Executive and Legislative Committees for their work over the summer and fall to greatly increase support and involvement in legislative reporting and following of key bills, which this year has assigned members to particular issues/bills. Thanks especially to VPA President Polly Mc Murtry and to Dana Farley, our VPA Legislative Committee Chair.

Legislative Committee Members Assignments: Fred Dunnington (VT Legislative Liaison), Sharon Murray (NNECAPA Legislative Liaison) - - and both of us are assigned to particularly follow bills on Housing / ‘New Neighborhoods’, Chapter 117 Technical Corrections, and Planning Coordination, Sarah Hadd (Prime Ag bills), Scott Gustin (Riparian buffer bill), Greg Brown (‘New’ Neighborhoods), Brian Shupe and Mike Munson (Growth Centers, ‘New’ neighborhoods, impact fees), Deb Sachs (Energy and Climate Change), Peg Elmer (Planning Coordination and Chapter 117 Technical Corrections)

## **NEW BILLS OF NOTE**

**(out of 144 introduced since last session – most are new Senate bills)**

### **S.300**

Introduced by Senator Lyons of Chittenden District

Subject: Conservation; Act 250; smart growth principles and state funding

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to provide that designated downtowns, village centers, and growth centers will be eligible for certain wastewater treatment plant loans. It proposes to revise Act 250 jurisdiction to include a development with a road that is at least 800 feet long or that provides access to more than five parcels. It proposes to reduce from ten to eight the number of lots that may be created before Act 250 jurisdiction over subdivisions applies in a municipality with duly adopted zoning and subdivision regulations. It proposes to repeal two subsections that limit Act 250 jurisdiction over utility line extensions: one containing prohibitions on addressing the related impacts of improvements served by the line, and the other limiting the extent to which future line extensions will be subject to review as material or substantial changes to previously permitted development. It proposes to create a new Act 250 requirement that proposed development within a mile of an interstate interchange may be authorized only upon a finding that it will maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact centers surrounded by rural countryside. It proposes to revise construction aid for schools in several instances, in order to require that the location meet Act 250 and Act 200 standards, to give priority to projects that comply with the principles of smart growth, and regarding new projects, to require that the school location be in a designated downtown, village center, new town center, or growth center. It proposes to address the funding of school renovations. It proposes to require that the state's transportation program not include new highway construction until 90 percent of existing highways and bridges are in good condition. In the determination of transportation priorities, it proposes to require consideration of the impact of a particular project on maintaining the state's historic settlement pattern and its impact on climate change. It requires the siting of state buildings in suitable designated growth centers, village centers, new town centers, or growth centers. Finally, the bill proposes changes to the planning and zoning chapter by providing that in order for a proposed development to avoid the need to obtain certain easements, it must have access to a class 1, class 2, or class 3 public highway, or to a portion of a class 4 public highway that is maintained by the town throughout the year.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-300.htm>

## **S-268 – Act 250 Criterion 9B**

Introduced by Senator Snelling of Chittenden District

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify Act 250 with regard to when a developer may mitigate the loss of primary agricultural soils by preserving lands off site. It proposes to remove a requirement that the remaining land on site be capable of contributing to an economic agricultural operation, but to retain in another section of law a requirement that on-site development be designed to result in compact development patterns.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-268.htm>

## **S.317**

Introduced by Senator Lyons of Chittenden District

Subject: Planning; administration

Statement of purpose: The general purpose of this bill is to make technical, clarifying corrections to the planning and zoning enabling law. This bill proposes to revise the chapter 117 housing goal with regard to dwelling units, in order to reflect the substance of the law contained in the chapter. It proposes to make it clear that the definition of a municipal land use permit includes a wastewater program delegated under 10 V.S.A. chapter 64. It clarifies the public hearing notices required, respectively, for the adoption of either a regional or a municipal plan. It makes it more clear that planning commission proceedings must precede the readoption of a municipal plan. It defines accessory dwelling units and amends the accessory dwelling provisions to clarify the meaning of “floor space.” It clarifies requirements for adequate access for land development. It proposes to clarify municipal authority to regulate nonconforming lots, structures, and uses. It makes it clear that municipal authority to regulate the location of certain public uses includes the power to specify acceptable locations within the municipality, as well as the power to regulate siting on a particular property. It proposes to clarify municipal authority to regulate educational institutions that have been recognized or approved by the department of education. It proposes to allow municipalities to grant waivers from other than dimensional requirements. It proposes to make it clear that certain reporting requirements apply when a bylaw is initially proposed, when it is amended, and when it is repealed. It allows the selectboard the option of submitting to the voters, on a case-by-case basis, the question of whether to adopt a particular bylaw or amendment. It proposes to clarify an optional municipal notice requirement. It clarifies a provision that states that if an administrative officer fails to act within 30 days, a permit shall be deemed

issued on the 31st day. It addresses how the administrative officer is to process applications received during the period of time when a new bylaw has been warned but not yet adopted. It proposes to provide that public hearings need not be held in order to make certain minor modifications to previously approved plats. It proposes to update certain references to court rules relating to appeals to the environmental court. It proposes to clarify provisions relating to the requirement that interested persons may appeal only if they have participated below.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-317.htm>

### **S.325**

Introduced by Senator Miller of Chittenden District and Senator Carris of Rutland District

Subject: Economic development; tax increment financing districts; financing; improvements; reappraisal; reporting requirements

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify the time frames for the life of a tax increment financing district and for incurring debt; to expand financing options to pay for development in a (TIF); to redesign the reappraisal formula for property within a TIF; to clarify what improvements may be paid with tax increments; to add reporting requirements; and to make other technical changes to the TIF laws.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-325.htm>

### **S.277**

Introduced by Senator Lyons of Chittenden District

Subject: Taxation; downtown and village center tax credits; increased cap

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to increase the cap on allowable downtown and village center tax credits from \$1.6 million to \$2.0 million.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-277.HTM>

## **S.287**

Introduced by Senator Lyons of Chittenden District and Senator Miller of Chittenden District

Subject: Planning; council of regional commissions; office of planning coordination

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to establish an office of planning coordination within the agency of administration, that would coordinate planning efforts among the various levels of government, review certain actions of regional planning commissions, maintain all current plans of all regions and municipalities, and report annually on the consistency of state agency, regional, and municipal plans with the state's planning goals. It proposes to rename the development cabinet as the planning cabinet, and to provide that it shall be staffed by the office of planning coordination. The bill proposes to amend requirements regarding state entity planning so that the requirements apply exclusively to state agencies and independent departments reporting directly to the governor. It proposes to repeal the council of regional commissions and to provide that the office of planning coordination shall review regional plans and amendments for compatibility with the certain plans of others and for consistency with the state goals, and shall review and comment on regional planning commission decisions regarding the confirmation of municipal planning efforts and the approval of municipal plans. It proposes that determinations with regard to the sufficiency of regional plans be made by the environmental court instead of the regional review panel of the council of regional commissions. The bill proposes that state entities that are required to plan shall evaluate the extent to which their plans are compatible with the plans of other state agencies and departments and with applicable regional plans and approved municipal plans. If a state agency plan is not compatible with these other plans and consistent with the state goals, the agency is required to prepare a statement providing certain explanations. The bill proposes that prior to preparation of the governor's annual budget request, the office of planning coordination shall review these explanatory statements and report on whether the plans contain any incompatibilities or inconsistencies with other plans and state goals, and shall advise whether the explanatory statement provided by a particular agency or department provides a satisfactory justification. The bill proposes to require the secretary of administration to review these reports, and if the secretary finds that a required state agency or department plan is incompatible or inconsistent, the secretary shall not deliver the budget estimate to the governor unless the secretary finds that the explanatory statement of the agency or department provides a satisfactory justification for the incompatibility or inconsistency. Finally, the bill proposes that appeals with regard to the sufficiency of a regional plan or amendment shall be heard before the environmental court, under rules established by the supreme court.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-287.htm>

## **S.267**

Introduced by Senator Hartwell of Bennington District

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that when an application for a permit under Act 250 or chapter 117 may result in major traffic impacts, abutting landowners along the impacted routes shall be entitled to notice [where notice is required in Section 4464] by certified mail.

“ If the public hearing relates to an application that may have major traffic impacts, notice shall be provided to landowners along those impacted routes, as directed by the appropriate municipal panel.”

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-267.htm>

## **S.302**

Introduced by Senator McCormack of Windsor District

Subject: Planning; ordinances; conveyances; renewable energy devices

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that new highway construction include paved shoulders adequate for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. It proposes to prohibit municipal ordinances and bylaws from prohibiting the installation of solar collectors, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable energy resources, a prohibition that does not extend to patio railings in condominiums, cooperatives, or apartments. It proposes to prohibit deed restrictions or covenants that would prohibit installation of solar collectors, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable energy devices, a prohibition that does not extend to patio railings in condominiums, cooperatives, or apartments.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-302.htm>

### **S.339**

Introduced by Senator Lyons of Chittenden District and Senator Miller of Chittenden District

Subject: Conservation; public service; climate change

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that the state agency energy plan for state government include a program for the cost-effective installation of solar energy equipment in state buildings. It proposes to require the coordination of state purchasing decisions to assure the use of biodiesel to heat state buildings that rely on #2 fuel oil, to power that portion of the state fleet that employs diesel engines, and to power diesel backup generators. It proposes to make it a priority of the department of economic development to assist renewable energy companies in expanding and moving to the state. It proposes to provide that qualified energy efficiency and renewable energy goods and services be eligible to use the Vermont brand. It provides that as part of the farm viability enhancement program, the secretary of agriculture, food and markets shall develop a farm renewable energy program, and shall develop a web-based, methane digester cost and benefit calculator.

The bill proposes to expand the scope of appliance energy efficiency legislation, contingent upon similar action being taken in states in the region, to include automatic commercial ice-makers; ceiling fans and fan light kits; commercial clothes washers; commercial pre-rinse spray valves; commercial refrigerators, freezers, and refrigerator-freezers; digital television adapters; furnace air handlers; illuminated exit signs; large packaged air-conditioning equipment; low voltage dry-type distribution transformers; pull-down refrigerators; torchieres; traffic signal modules; and unit heaters. It proposes to require that the commissioner of public service monitor efficiency advances in the development of appliances, and revise the rules so as to assure that the standards continue to reflect the state of the art in affordable conservation technology, and to make the standards at least as aggressive in reducing energy consumption as are the standards in effect in other states, where doing so would be in the interests of electrical energy consumers of the state.

It proposes to amend the Vermont economic development authority chapter to expand the definition of eligible facility to include energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities relating to certain retail sales and relating to housing, and to make it clear that eligible endeavors include: logging; the operation of sawmills and processing of forest products; and renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses.

The bill proposes the establishment of a greenhouse gas emissions registry and a regional reporting system, and requires the secretary of natural resources to develop rules for the reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, and to publish a triennial greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the state. It requires the agency of natural resources to develop guidelines that establish information needs and policies in

evaluating applications for small-scale hydropower, micro-hydro facilities, and pico-hydro facilities.

The bill proposes to allow the land use panel of the natural resources board to adopt rules that accord greater presumptive weight, abbreviated review, and higher density siting for homes that meet certain high standards such as the Vermont builds greener program—leadership in energy and environmental design (LEED) for homes, and similar programs.

The bill proposes to expand the range of possible expenditures from the clean energy development fund, and to require establishment of three programs: a small renewables grant program, a large onsite renewables program, and a farm renewable energy program.

The bill proposes to require the agency of transportation scoping process to include a cost-benefit analysis weighing conservation factors, efficiency opportunities, and congestion mitigation strategies. It proposes to require the agency of transportation to manage development to meet performance standards to reduce vehicular miles traveled and to increase public transit ridership. It requires the agency to support employer and local or regional government-led conservation, efficiency, rideshare, and bicycle programs. It makes it state policy to enhance and expand rail passenger services and freight railroad services, and it allows the agency to develop programs to make rail transport more available for transporting wood fuel resources and other wood products. It requires paving of highway shoulders, unless a particular section is highly cost-prohibitive; a category which can cover no more than one percent of the shoulders on the highways.

The bill requires that the residential building energy standards (RBES) be amended to meet entry level requirements under the energy star rating system, and seeks recommendations with regard to establishing within five years a significantly enhanced construction standard for efficiency. It proposes to require an advisory committee to make recommendations as to how to enhance significantly the commercial building energy standards (CPES).

It proposes to allow municipalities to establish green building incentives for homes and commercial or industrial buildings that meet significantly advanced construction standards.

The bill proposes to establish a state energy office, within the department of public service, and to create an advisory body, named the clean energy coordinating council, with a mandate to: advise the energy office on the state's overall clean energy program; assist moderate and small systems through the review process; develop targets for development within renewable energy source sectors and report on progress in meeting these targets; develop and evaluate scenarios for tax incentives for the use of less energy; create a plan for farm methane project development; develop a plan for significant biofuel capacity by 2017, including recommendations for funding sources to finance a rebate for retail sales of biodiesel blends; develop stack emissions profiles for a range of

wood fuels and develop a best available controls catalogue for wood energy applications; assemble a collaborative educational team to implement a public education campaign to advance conservation; develop school curricula at all levels related to renewable energy together with teacher training; assist colleges in developing renewable energy educational and training and retraining programs; expand research and development efforts regarding renewable energy; collaborate with credentialing bodies to ensure Vermont programs have the highest levels of certification; work with the workforce development council on energy opportunities; and establish educational programs for lenders.

The bill proposes to require development of a state biomass plan, with components that include the following: biomass inventories, evaluation of technologies, establishment of proposed siting criteria for wood-fired electricity generating facilities, consideration of distributed heat and combined heat and power, identification of a developer for a regional wood-fired electric plant, biomass market development measures such as increased rail transport options and biomass use by the state and local governments, strategies to divert biomass from municipal waste streams, and establishment of a wood harvest and ecosystem monitoring program.

The bill requires the public service board to adopt rates that absorb certain power line costs related to obtaining electricity from farms with biomass systems, and to assure the replacement of incandescent light bulbs, with a goal of universal residential deployment. It establishes a public purpose charge upon electricity consumers, to be deposited into the clean energy development fund. It proposes to amend net metering laws by increasing the maximum eligible size to 500 kW capacity, except in a service area where the board has established a lower maximum capacity. It increases a utility's cumulative obligation from one to five percent of specified peak demand, with an option of the board raising that cap to 10 percent.

It proposes to require the public service board to establish two tools to be used in least-cost planning: first, a mechanism to account for the financial risk associated with greenhouse gas emissions from various power sources; second, a method by which environmental costs shall incorporate a "greenhouse gas adder" which shall be an additional dollar amount per ton of gas generated.

It requires the board to establish a loading order according to which resources shall be called upon to meet the state's needs, with energy efficiency and demand response activities being the resources of first resort. It proposes to establish a Green Mountain energy incentives program under which a utility and a property owner agree that the utility will fund installation of renewable energy equipment, and the property owner will pay through utility rates. It proposes to amend the section 248 process for reviewing power purchases, investment, or construction by requiring that long-term, baseload power commitments be for resources at least as clean as a natural gas-fired plant using combined cycle turbine technology. The bill proposes to update the SPEED program by requiring the creation of a standard contract and requiring utilities to enter long-term contracts for renewable energy resources. It proposes to make it a goal for the state to

have at least eight percent of the retail load met by small-scale renewable energy projects by 2015.

The bill proposes to authorize the state treasurer, consistent with other investment objectives, to invest in projects that are eligible under the clean energy development fund. It proposes to provide that certain renewable energy and energy efficiency measures shall not increase the appraised value of property. It proposes to establish a residential tax credit for purchase of specified efficient appliances and energy systems. It proposes to require the property transfer form to certify that the seller has disclosed annual energy consumption for the preceding five years or the period of occupancy since construction, or has provided a home energy rating within the preceding two years. It requires the home weatherization program to fund the installation of solar domestic hot water systems on eligible homes, and it increases the income level that establishes eligibility for the program.

The bill proposes to require the secretary of agriculture, food and markets to seek federal funds to evaluate the potential for manure management centers for regional dairy bio-digesters, and it requires the secretary of natural resources to adjust the agency's regulatory programs that may be preventing the use of food processing wastes, whey, and brewers' waste from being used in farm-based methane digesters.

It proposes to require the commissioner of public service to fund a pilot community wind demonstration project. It requires the department of public service to convene an advisory committee to develop a Vermont-specific residential "efficiency index" to serve as a common standard to measure effectively home energy efficiency. It proposes to require the secretary of administration to establish a cash bonus program for state employees who commute a specified number of miles per year by bicycle.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-339.htm>

## **S.286**

Introduced by Senator Miller of Chittenden District, Senator Doyle of Washington

Subject: Public service; small hydro

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the public service board to develop recommendations regarding how to simplify and make predictable and timely the process by which small hydroelectric-generating facilities may be authorized. It proposes that the report: recommend how to identify small hydroelectric facilities, address permit application requirements, address multiple uses of water bodies that include small hydroelectric projects, and assess the overall advantages of these systems. It proposes to require the secretary of natural resources to report on simplifying the agency's procedure for completing water quality certification review of small hydroelectric projects. This report shall: recommend how to identify a small hydroelectric facility; address bypass

flows; recommend rule changes that may be necessary to assure consistent standards for dissolved oxygen; address seasonal flows in bypasses; address the need for new fish or flow studies for small hydroelectric facilities, while assuring the studies will be affordable; address other technical aspects of small hydroelectric facilities; address how the agency may provide critical information to potential developers early in the application process; propose regulatory changes that would assure a consistent policy with regard to fish passage at all existing dams, regardless of dam use; and identify certain aesthetics-related amendments to the water quality standards. The bill proposes to build on a study completed in 2002 for the agency of transportation in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop specified information on minimum flows of ungauged streams that will be applicable for small hydroelectric facilities. The bill proposes that Vermont state standards for flows be consistent with all aspects of the United States Fish and Wildlife Interim Flow Policy. Finally, it provides that for purposes of net metering, a union or district school net metering facility shall be considered in the same group net metering system with buildings of its member municipalities that are located within the service area of the same electric company that serves the facility.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-286.HTM>

### **S.304**

Introduced by Senator Snelling of Chittenden District, Senator Bartlett of Lamoille District, Senator Lyons of Chittenden District and Senator McCormack of Windsor District

Subject: Conservation and development; groundwater protection; groundwater withdrawal

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to declare the groundwater resources of the state to be a public trust resource and to implement a groundwater withdrawal permit program. Any person withdrawing more than 10,000 gallons per day or more than 300,000 gallons of water over any 30-day period, at a single real property or place of business prior to July 1, 2008, would be required to register with the secretary of natural resources. After July 1, 2008, any person withdrawing more than 50,000 gallons of groundwater a day from a well or wells drilled at a single real property or place of business would be required to obtain a permit from the agency of natural resources when the groundwater withdrawn would be used for industrial or commercial purposes. A permit would also be required for the bottling or removal of water from a spring for commercial or industrial purposes at a single real property or place of business after July 1, 2008. The bill would also establish a public trust cause of action to protect groundwater

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-304.HTM>

## **H. 561**

Introduced by Representative Ancel of Calais

Subject: Conservation; sign law

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to allow business directional signs near highway turnoffs located in towns that adjoin the town in which the business is located, provided the business is situated near the highway turnoff and the highway is relatively well-traveled, as compared to the nearest highway located in the town in which the business is located.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-561.HTM>

## **H.549**

Introduced by Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources

Subject: Conservation; zoning; waterfront buffers

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require, beginning July 1, 2010, the establishment of 50-foot waterway buffers adjacent to waterways of the state. The bill would also require the water resources panel of the natural resources board to adopt rules regarding the size and use of waterway buffers. The agency of natural resources would enforce the buffer zone requirements. The bill would allow municipalities to adopt municipal waterway buffer bylaws in lieu of the state requirements and to impose a waterways buffer of less than 50 feet in certain situations.

## COMMITTEE AGENDAS – of note –

Thursday, January 10, 2008

2:00 p.m. **Governor's State of the State Address**

### HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE & WATER RESOURCES

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

9:00AM **H.0549 Establishing Waterfront Buffer Zones**

Warren Coleman, General Counsel, Agency of Natural Resources  
Karen Horn, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, VT League of Cities and Towns (9:15AM)  
Kim Greenwood, Staff Scientist, VT Natural Resources Council (9:30AM)  
**Scott Gustin, Senior Planner, VT Planners Association (9:45AM)**  
Eric Benson, Staff Counsel, Vermont Rail System (10:00AM)  
Anthony Otis, Corporate Secretary, Railroad Association of Vermont (10:15AM)

2:45 **Committee Discussion**

*H.0549*

Steve McLeod, Executive Director, VT Traditions Coalition; VASA

Thursday, January 10, 2008

9:00AM **H.0549 Establishing Waterfront Buffer Zones**

Tayt Brooks, Gov't. Affairs Director, Home Builders and Remodelers Assoc. of N.VT  
Bill Driscoll, Vice-President, Associated Industries of Vermont (9:15AM)  
TBA, Associated Industries of Vermont (9:30AM)  
Anthony Iarrapino, Staff Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation (9:45AM)  
Mark Lucas, Assoc. General Counsel, Natural Resources Board (10:00AM)  
Ed Larson, VT Forest Products Association (10:15AM)

### HOUSE GENERAL, HOUSING & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

10:00 a.m. **House Floor**

11:00 a.m. **Joint Session with Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs**  
*Room 11*

**John Hall, Commissioner, Dept. of Housing**

**Gregory Brown, Exec. Dir., Chittenden Reg. Planning Comm.**

Thursday, January 10, 2008

9:30 a.m. **Housing Preservation: Housing Code Inspections & Enforcement**

Christine Finley, Deputy Comm. of Health, VT Health Dept.  
John Wood, Dir., Fire Safety Div. (10:00 a.m.)  
Karen Horn, Dir., Pub. Pol., VT League of Cities & Towns (10:30 a.m.)

### HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

10:00AM **Floor**

11:00AM-12noon **Electricity Issues**  
*Planning for Vermont's Energy Future*

Dave Lamont, Power Supply Planner, Dept. of Public Service

1:00PM **Caucus**

2:30PM-3:30PM      **Electricity Issues**  
*New England Electricity markets*  
Dave Lamont, Power Supply Planner, Dept. of Public Service (2:30PM-3:00PM)  
Steve Litkovitz, Electrical Engineer, Dept. of Public Service (3:00PM-3:30PM)

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

8:45AM              **Electricity Issues**  
*Summary of Recent Legislative Initiatives*  
Riley Allen, Director of Planning Division, Dept. of Public Service (8:45AM-9:30AM)

9:30AM-10:30AM   **Electricity Issues**  
*Planning Activities in Process*  
Riley Allen, Director of Planning Division, Dept. of Public Service

11:00AM            **Meeting with Committee**  
Gaye Symington, Speaker of the House

1:30PM              **Electricity Issues**  
*Federal Energy Legislation*  
Riley Allen, Director of Planning Division, Dept. of Public Service

2:00PM-4:00PM    **Electricity Issues**  
Riley Allen, Director of Planning Division, Dept. of Public Service  
Uldis Vanags, Nuclear Engineer, Dept. of Public Service

Thursday, January 10, 2008

8:45AM-10:15AM   **Electricity Issues**  
*Regional Initiatives*  
Riley Allen, Director of Planning Division, Dept. of Public Service  
Hans Mertens, Director of Engineering, Dept. of Public Service

10:30AM-11:00AM   **Electricity Issues**  
*finish previous*  
Bruce Bentley, Central Vermont Public Service

1:00PM-2:00-PM    **Floor**

2:00PM              **Floor-Joint Assembly**  
*State of State Address*

3:00PM-5:00PM    **Electricity Issues**  
*S.209 overview*  
Rich Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works

Friday, January 11, 2008

9:00AM-11:00AM   **Joint Committee Meeting with House Commerce, Senate Natural Resources**  
*VT Rural Energy Council Report*

1:00PM              **Committee Discussion**  
*TBA*

**SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & GENERAL AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

10:00 a.m.         **Senate Floor Convenes**

11:00 a.m.         **Department Accomplishments, Future Plans, Goals & Obstacles**  
*Confirmation; ROOM: 11; Joint with House Committee on General, Housing & Military Affairs*  
John Hall, Commissioner, Department of Housing & Community Affairs

11:30 a.m.         **Housing Creation Working Group Update**  
*ROOM: 11; Joint with House Committee on General, Housing & Military Affairs*  
Gregory Brown, Executive Director, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

12:00 p.m.         **Senate Caucus**

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

9:00 a.m.         **Agency and Department Accomplishments, Future Plans, Goals & Obstacles; Act 46, 2007 Update/Reports; Confirmations**  
*ROOM: 10; Joint Meeting with House Committee on Commerce*  
Kevin Dorn, Secretary, Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Michael Quinn, Commissioner, Department of Economic Development (10:00 a.m.)  
Pat Moulton-Powden, Commissioner, Department of Labor; ex-officio Chair, Vermont Employment Security Board (11:00 a.m.)

1:30 p.m. **Senate Floor Convenes**

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **FYI: Central Vermont Chamber Reception/Open House**  
*Corner of Paine Turnpike and Stewart Road, Beaulieu Place, Berlin*

Thursday, January 10, 2008

9:00 a.m. **Update/Introductions Of: Vermont Telecommunications Authority, Act 79, 2007**  
*ROOM: 11; Joint Meeting with House Committee on Commerce*

Bill Shuttlesworth, Executive Director, VT Telecommunications Authority  
Mary Evslin, Chair, VT Telecommunications Authority, 828-1788  
Peter Meyer, Vice-Chair, VT Telecommunications Authority  
Tom Murray, Commissioner, Department of Information & Innovation

10:30 a.m. **U.S. Census Bureau's New American Community Survey "How it Effects Local Data"**  
*ROOM: 11; Joint Meeting with House Committee on Commerce and House and Senate Committees On Government Operations*

William "Chip" Sawyer, Manager, Vermont State Data Center, UVM Center for Rural Studies, Burlington, 656-0892

11:30 a.m. **Senate Floor Convenes**

2:00 p.m. **Joint Assembly**  
*Governors State of the State Address*

Friday, January 11, 2008

9:00 a.m. **Vermont Rural Energy Council Report Presentation "Strengthening Vermont's Energy Economy"**  
*ROOM: 11; Joint Meeting with House Committee On Commerce and Senate & House Committees on Natural Resources & Energy*

Richard White, Chair, VT Council on Rural Development; CEO, Community National Bank, Derby, 334-7915

Paul Costello, Executive Director, VT Council on Rural Development, Montpelier, 223-5763

10:30 a.m. **Vermont Rural Energy Council Member Comments to Recommendations**  
*ROOM: 11; Joint Meeting with House Committee On Commerce and Senate & House Committees on Natural Resources & Energy*

Mark Sinclair, Clean Energy Group, Montpelier, 223-2554  
Richard Smith, Deputy Commissioner, VT Dept. of Public Service  
Jeff Wolfe, GroSolar, White River Junction, 800-374-4494  
Andrew Perchlik, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Vermont, 229-0099  
Bob Foster, Foster Farm, Middlebury, 388-1137  
David Lane, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture  
Riley Allen, Director for Planning, Dept. of Public Service

11:30 a.m. **Senate Floor Convenes**

**SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY**

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

10:00 a.m. **Floor**

10:30 a.m. **Committee discussion and organization - if there is time**

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

9:00 a.m. **Committee discussion**

9:30 a.m. **S.152 - Prevention of Lead Poisoning**

Elliot Burg, Asst. Attorney General

10:15 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30 a.m. **S.17 - Disposal of Electronic Waste**

Jeremy Hoff, Law Clerk, Leg. Council

11:15 a.m. **Rural Energy and Economic Development Issues**

Al Boright, Leg. Counsel

