



Via First Class Mail and ePUC

February 4, 2026

Re: Petition of Green Mountain Power for a Certificate of Public Good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing upgrades to the Georgia Substation located at 2066 Ballard Road in the Town of Georgia, Vermont

45-Day Advance Notice Package

Dear Neighbors and Government Entities,

This letter provides advance notice to let you know that Green Mountain Power (“GMP”) is preparing to file a petition with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) for approval to upgrade GMP’s Georgia Substation located at 2066 Ballard Road in the Town of Georgia, Vermont (the “Project”). The Project is needed to upgrade equipment, which will increase the reliability of service provided to customers in the towns of Georgia, Milton, and St. Albans.

We anticipate filing the petition with the Commission on March 23, 2026, and are providing the following Project overview and related information in this 45-day advance notice package in accordance with Commission Rule 5.402 and 30 V.S.A. § 248 (“Section 248”). The information below includes the following: 1) an overall description of the Project, 2) an explanation of the need for the Project, including an assessment of alternatives considered, 3) an overview of the impact of the Project, and 4) information on the Commission review process, including participation by municipal and regional planning commissions, as well as links to guidance on the Commission’s review process.

I. Project Overall Description:

The Project consists of upgrades to the Georgia Substation on the site of the existing substation, and includes upgrades to existing 34.5 kV and 12.47 kV equipment. Improvements to the substation yard will include a new fence, oil containment system, security, lights, animal fence, surface material, new access drive, and ground grid. The equipment upgrades include, among other things, installation of two new 34.5 kV transmission line breakers, a new 10/14 MVA 34.5 kV/12.47 kV transformer with a new 34.5kV breaker, two 12.47 kV distribution breakers, six new circuit regulators, remote terminal unit, switches, a battery bank, new control building, two new 16’x18’ bay steel structures with bus work, and other standard equipment to upgrade the existing Georgia Substation with modern substation equipment.

An aerial photograph of the Project site is attached here as **Attachment 1**. A detailed site plan for the Project construction is attached as **Attachment 2**.

II. Project Need:

The upgrades to the Georgia Substation replace equipment at the end of its useful life to improve substation safety and reliability for Georgia and the surrounding towns of Milton and St. Albans. The new transmission breakers and the associated in-and-out transmission feed will allow transmission line 127 to be sectionalized, which will increase reliability for the customers fed from the Georgia substation, as well as the other customers on nearby substations. The new 10/14 MVA transformer, which will replace the 1974 vintage power transformer, will contain bushing mounted current transformers to enhance reliability through the implementation of advanced protection schemes. In addition, the high-side transformer breaker will allow for faster and more reliable fault clearing for faults in the Georgia Substation than the existing high side fuses do. The replacement of the low side structure will increase reliability by retiring the temporary wooden structures and allow for larger feeder voltage regulators which are needed for more flexible feeder backup. The existing 1985 vintage 12.47 kV breaker that protects the G71 circuit is beyond its useful life and needs replacement. It will be replaced with a new vacuum breaker to increase reliability.

In connection with planning this Project, GMP considered the following alternatives: 1) installing a 15/28 MVA transformer rather than the proposed 10/14 MVA, 2) installing 34.5kV Motor Operated Load Break (MOLB) switches rather than the proposed 34.5kV breakers, and 3) installing 328 amp regulators rather than the proposed 438 amp regulators. GMP is not proposing the alternatives listed above for the following reasons. First, GMP chose not to upgrade the transformer size to a 15/28 MVA because the 10/14 MVA unit supports all of the desired reliability improvements and lowers Project costs. The 10/14 MVA allows for full backup between the Georgia and West Milton Substations while maintaining capacity for future electrification from cold climate heat pumps and electric vehicles. Second, installing MOLBs, rather than 34.5 kV breakers, would result in Project cost savings of approximately \$400,000. However, GMP is not proposing MOLBs because of the number of customers that would be negatively impacted by transmission line faults. Third, while installing 328 amp feeder regulators, rather than the proposed 438 amp regulators, would result in Project cost savings, under present-day feeder backup conditions, the 328 regulators would be overloaded to 115% of their rating. Similarly, 328 amp regulators limit the ability to utilize the 10/14 MVA transformer's full capacity. For these reasons, GMP proposes installing 438 amp regulators.

III. Project Impact:

GMP plans to rebuild the Georgia Substation on its existing site and expand the substation. The existing substation yard will increase from 6,040 square feet to 13,862 square feet. Increasing the size of the substation yard will facilitate access to all equipment in the substation and improve clearance to energized equipment, which improves safety for GMP

employees. GMP proposes a permanent access road to be installed along the northern fenceline which will facilitate access to the transmission line behind the substation.

GMP has engaged VHB Inc. to inventory and assess natural resource features in the Project area, to address options for properly avoiding or mitigating any potential impacts, and to identify any applicable collateral environmental permits. The current Project design would involve some tree clearing and new impervious surfaces, and VHB will be evaluating impacts and requirements of applicable permits and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' expectations based on the resources present and design constraints. VHB is also completing an assessment of sound levels from the rebuilt substation to ensure that any sound emanating from the Project is within accepted standards. Northeast Archaeological Resource Center of Farmington, Maine has completed a phase I archaeological survey and determined that the Project as planned is unlikely to have an adverse effect on significant archaeological sites, and that no additional archaeological work is recommended prior to Project construction.

In terms of visual impact, the Project consists of upgrades to an existing substation, the addition of similar appearing equipment, and an increase in the fenced substation yard area. Proposed reconstruction of the access road and substation yard will require removal of vegetation north of the proposed access road expansion. Vegetation along Ballard Road will also be removed to facilitate safe sight lines for vehicles exiting the Project site, as well as for clearance for the various overhead conductor and poles that lie west of the substation. Due to the proposed vegetation removal, the rebuilt substation will become more visible than the existing substation, particularly from areas to the north and west. T.J. Boyle and Associates conducted a preliminary review of aesthetic impacts and prepared a draft, preliminary plan for additional aesthetic landscaping, which is provided as **Attachment 3** to this letter. The proposed landscaping plan will help reduce visibility of the rebuilt substation. GMP has hired T.J. Boyle and Associates to perform a more detailed aesthetic assessment, which will be provided with GMP's petition filing and will further examine local and regional planning documents for criteria that address scenic resources and open space.

Materials will be transported to the construction site by truck over I-89, US-7, and Ballard Road in Georgia. Any traffic impacts will be minor and limited almost entirely to the period of Project construction.

IV. Information Regarding the Project Review Process:

As noted above, GMP has enclosed an aerial photo and site plan with this letter, showing the location and proposed design of the Project's elements, along with a draft of the proposed landscape mitigation plan. The information contained in this package is intended to provide a general understanding of the Project and could change based on further analysis and the requirements of applicable permits.

Before beginning work on the Project, GMP must obtain a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") from the Commission under 30 V.S.A. Section 248. Before issuing a CPG, the Commission must find, among other things, that the Project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions, the recommendations of

the municipal legislative bodies, and the land conservation measures contained in the plan of any affected municipality.

Section 248(f) of Title 30 provides information regarding participation of municipal and regional planning commissions in Section 248 proceedings. Per 30 V.S.A. § 248(f)(1)(A), each municipal and regional planning commission may convene a public hearing on the proposed petition. Pursuant to section 248(f)(1)(C), each planning commission may submit recommendations to the petitioner within 40 days of the petitioner's submittal to the planning commissions, which is March 16, 2026, for this Project. The petitioner's application to the Commission must address any written comments provided to the petitioner in response to the 45-day advance submission that are related to the Section 248(b) criteria and any oral comments related to those criteria made at any public hearing conducted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(f)(1)(A). Section 248(f)(1)(D) provides that once the petition is filed with the Commission, each planning commission may make recommendations to the Commission.

For additional information regarding the Commission's review process, please reference the Commission's document labeled, "Public Participation and Intervention in Proceedings Before the Public Utility Commission," which can be found on the Commission's website at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/public-participation-and-intervention-proceedings-public-utility-commission>. Specific information about Section 248 cases can be found on the Commission website at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/section-248-procedures>.

If you have any questions about the Project or have any feedback, please reach out and I will be happy to help. My email address is kamran.hassan@greenmountainpower.com and my phone number is 802-353-9950.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K.H.', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kamran Hassan
Leader of Engineering

Enclosures: Attachments 1, 2, and 3

cc: Service List per Certificate of Service



REV.	DATE	DR	CK	DESCRIPTION	
				Green Mountain Power 163 Acorn Ln, Colchester VT, 05446	
				GEORGIA SUBSTATION REBUILD	
 GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER <i>Generating Possibilities Together</i>					
SCALE: N.T.S.		DRAWN BY: SCL		APPROVED BY:	
DATE: 11-25-25		CHECKED BY:		DATE	
DRAWING NUMBER:					
AERIAL SITE LOCATION					
FILE: L:\SUBSTATION\				REV.	



