



Filed VIA E-PUC

April 20, 2020

VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
People's United Bank Building, 4th Floor
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Case No. 20-0789-INV

Dear Commission:

In a memorandum dated April 7, 2020 the Commission sought comments regarding accessing land records during this pandemic State of Emergency. As an initial matter, VGS does not have any projects subject to 30 V.S.A. §248 that are at a stage that would require us access land records during this pandemic to develop landowner lists. We are however still working through some easements for distribution or service lines that require engaging with some town offices for easements. Our experience since the State of Emergency is described below.

We have received a small number of notices from various municipalities indicating reduced access or access by appointment-only. Since VGS is also practicing social distancing we have not attempted to access or made an appointment with any town clerk or municipal offices for land record access. As it pertains to on-line access, this varies from municipality to municipality for both the availability of on-line data and the information provided. For some municipalities, the on-line resource is quick and efficient. For others, it is more efficient to simply go to the municipal offices. There is also a state-sponsored database that covers all municipalities however it is not necessarily current. It is a reasonable resource for a preliminary review but VGS does not rely on at this time for legal documents like easements.

As always, please let me know if we can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eileen Simollardes', written in a cursive style.

Eileen Simollardes
Vice President Regulatory Affairs