

MEMORANDUM

To: Parties in PSB Docket No. 7970 (VGS Addison Natural Gas Project)

From: Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board

Re: Public Hearing of September 10, 2013

Date: August 30, 2013

The Public Service Board ("Board") has received several questions concerning the procedures that will apply to the public hearing to be conducted in this docket on September 10, 2013. The Board has asked me to issue this memorandum to explain how the Board will conduct the hearing, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Middlebury Union Middle School at 48 Deerfield Lane in Middlebury. The Board intends to apply its established procedures to the public hearing, as set forth below.

Purpose of the Public Hearing

The purpose of this public hearing is for the Board to hear comments and concerns from the public regarding the proposed project. All comments will be transcribed by a court reporter for later reference and will become part of the public file for the case.

Comments made at the public hearing do not become part of the evidentiary record. Vermont law requires that the Board's decision be based upon the evidence presented by formal parties at the technical hearings (which, in this case, commence on September 16, 2013). However, public comments play an important role by raising new issues or offering perspectives that the Board should consider and ask parties to address with evidence.

Who May Speak

Because those with party status in the case, including intervenors, will have opportunities during and after the technical hearings to present their positions, no party or representative of a party will be permitted to make comments at the public hearing. Members of the public wishing to speak will be required to enter their name and town of residence on a sign-up sheet. Each prospective speaker must sign up individually and in person. Board staff will be present in the gymnasium beginning at 6:30 P.M. to conduct the sign-up process.

Following the public hearing conducted in this docket in March, there were questions about the fact that the Board heard comments from residents of New York as well as Vermont. Please be advised that in receiving comment at public hearings, the Board does not limit the opportunity to speak to residents of any particular area or to residents of Vermont.

Time Limits

The Board has asked me to emphasize that, because interest in this case is widespread and many persons are likely to attend the public hearing, the Board will likely have to limit each speaker to a time of two minutes. The Board encourages members of the public, including those who speak at the public hearing, to submit their comments in writing. Such submissions become part of the public file in this docket, are subject to no limitations as to their length, and will receive thorough consideration by the Board and its staff.

Finally, a question received by the Board concerns how to raise objections or concerns about the conduct of the public hearing itself. Please be advised that given the limited time available for hearing from the public, such objections and concerns should be conveyed to the Board by contacting the Clerk's Office in writing, whether by letter or electronic mail (psb.clerk@state.vt.us). .