

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 17-3550-INV

Investigation pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 209 regarding the alleged failure of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. to comply with the certificate of public good in Docket 7970 by burying the pipeline at less than required depth in New Haven, Vermont	
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
JEFFREY A. NELSON
ON BEHALF OF VERMONT GAS SYSTEMS, INC.**

July 10, 2020

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Mr. Nelson provides his background and experience and incorporates by reference several previously-filed affidavits and attachments so that the Commission and parties can efficiently refer to that testimony during the course of this proceeding.

Exhibit VGS-JAN-1	Resume
Exhibit VGS-JAN-2	August 4, 2017 Affidavit and Attachments of Jeffrey A. Nelson
Exhibit VGS-JAN-3	September 22, 2017 Affidavit and Attachments of Jeffrey A. Nelson

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
JEFFREY A. NELSON
ON BEHALF OF VERMONT GAS SYSTEMS, INC.**

1 **Q1. Please state your name, occupation, and business address.**

2 **A1.** My name is Jeffrey A. Nelson, and I am a Principal with the firm Vanasse Hangen
3 Brustlin, Inc. ("VHB"), located at 40 IDX Drive, in South Burlington, Vermont.

4

5 **Q2. Please describe your educational background and pertinent professional
6 experience.**

7 **A2.** For a number of years until December 2019 I served as the Director of Energy and
8 Environmental Services for the Vermont office of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. ("VHB"),
9 and I am currently serving as a Strategic Advisor to the firm. I have worked as a consulting
10 hydrologist and hydrogeologist in Vermont since 1982. I have a Bachelor of Science degree
11 in Geology and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering, both from the University of
12 Vermont. My educational training includes extensive scientific coursework, with a
13 specialization in surface water hydrology and groundwater hydrogeology. My professional
14 background includes the direction, completion, and presentation of technical studies,
15 evaluation and review of scientific data pertaining to water resources, determination of
16 compliance with various State and Federal regulatory requirements and application for
17 various permits and authorizations. Specific areas of expertise include stormwater treatment
18 and control; erosion prevention and sediment control planning and design; and wetland and
19 stream assessment, impact assessment, restoration and mitigation. I have designed and
20 implemented a large number of projects in Vermont and the northeastern United States

1 involving water resources assessment, planning, impact analysis, permitting, and monitoring.
2 In particular, my work in Vermont has involved planning and permitting for a number of
3 large-scale linear utility projects including electric transmission corridors, gas pipelines, and
4 wind farms. I am a Certified Professional in both Erosion and Sediment Control and Storm
5 Water Quality. My resume is provided as **Exhibit VGS-JAN-1**.

6

7 **Q3. Have you previously testified before the Vermont Public Utility Commission (the**
8 **“Commission”)?**

9 **A3.** Yes. I have testified in numerous cases before the Commission. I have testified for
10 Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”) petitions on behalf of UPC Vermont Wind, LLC in
11 Docket No. 7156, on behalf of the Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (“VELCO”) and
12 Green Mountain Power (“GMP”) in Docket No. 7314 (the East Avenue Loop proceeding),
13 and on behalf of GMP, et al. in Docket No. 7628 (the Kingdom Community Wind Project
14 proceeding). I have also provided extensive testimony to the Commission in prior VGS
15 dockets, including Docket No. 7970 (the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline permitting
16 proceeding). I have also presented the results of analyses and testified before all nine
17 Vermont District Environmental Commissions, the former Environmental Board, the former
18 Vermont Water Resources Board, the Vermont Environmental Court, and other regional and
19 municipal tribunals.

20

21

1 **Q4. Have you previously submitted testimony in this case?**

2 **A4.** Yes. I have submitted several affidavits in this case and incorporate that testimony
3 here by reference. These include affidavits dated August 4 and September 22, 2017. On
4 October 25, 2017, VGS requested that these affidavits be treated as prefiled testimony. I
5 understand that on October 27, 2017, the Commission ordered that – in the absence of an
6 objection from the other parties – the affidavits would be treated as prefiled testimony and no
7 party objected.

8

9 **Q5. What is the purpose of your testimony today?**

10 **A5.** The purpose of my testimony is to incorporate prior affidavits and attachments into
11 this testimony for easy reference by the parties and the Commission. Accordingly, I include
12 my August 4, 2017 affidavit addressing stream crossing and depth of cover and the
13 associated attachments, as follows:

- 14
- 15 • Attachment A: DEC Stream Alteration Permit for ANGP (#SA 5-9029),
issued June 9, 2014.
 - 16 • Attachment B: VHB Memorandum dated December 13, 2012 (last revised
17 June 26, 2013) addressing ANGP Stream Alteration/Fluvial Erosion Hazard
18 Review).
 - 19 • Attachment C: CHA Plan Sheet ANGP-T-G-020, dated June 28, 2013.
 - 20 • Attachment D: CHA Plan Sheet ANGP-T-G-006, dated June 28, 2013.
 - 21 • Attachment E: CHA Plan Sheet ANGP-T-G-017, last revised December 10,
22 2015.

1 • Attachment F: CHA Plan Sheet ANGP-T-G-015, last revised June 11, 2015.

2 This affidavit and the above-noted exhibits are provided as **Exhibit VGS-JAN-2**.

3 Additionally, I include my September 22, 2017 affidavit addressing restoration of
4 pre-existing topography and the associated attachments, as follows:

5 • Exhibit 1: Photographic Exhibit labeled “Contouring – Approx. Station
6 1063+00. 12/2016”.

7 • Exhibit 2: Photographic Exhibit labeled “Revegetation – Approx. Station
8 1063+00. 9/2017”.

9 • Exhibit 3: Photographic Exhibit labeled “Contouring – Approx. Station
10 703+00. 11/2016”.

11 • Exhibit 4: Photographic Exhibit labeled “Revegetation – Approx. Station
12 703+00. 9/2017”.

13 • Exhibit 5: Photographic Exhibit labeled “Contouring – Approx. Station
14 703+00. 11/2016”.

15 • Exhibit 6: Photographic Exhibit labeled “Revegetation – Approx. Station
16 703+00. 9/2017”.

17 This affidavit and the above-noted exhibits are provided as **Exhibit VGS-JAN-3**.

18

19 **Q6. Do these affidavits still represent accurate and complete statements of your**
20 **professional opinion as of today?**

21 **A6.** Yes. No revisions, corrections, additions, or deletions are necessary.

22

1 **Q7. Does this conclude your testimony?**

2 **A7. Yes.**