

# Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s): Councilor Karen Paul

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

## AUTHORIZATION FOR WARNING OF REFERENDUM ON EAST AVENUE LOOP PROJECT

### CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eight.....  
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, Burlington Electric Department's ("BED's") electric distribution system is presently served by two radial connections from the bulk electric transmission system owned by Vermont Transco, LLC and operated by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. ("VELCO"), one at Queen City substation and one at East Avenue substation; and

WHEREAS, under the present configuration, loss of either the sole 115 KV line feeding the East Avenue substation or the East Avenue substation transformer results in service interruption to about forty percent (40%) of BED's load, including UVM, Fletcher Allen Health Care and the downtown commercial core, for as long as 1.5 hours while switching occurs, and under certain peak conditions and circumstances, approximately twenty percent (20%) of BED's load would remain out of service indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2007, the Burlington City Council adopted a Resolution authorizing Burlington Electric Department ("BED") to proceed with Phase I of the so-called East Avenue Loop transmission upgrade project (the "Project"), which will provide a looped transmission feed to the East Avenue substation to avoid loss of load and greatly enhance electric service reliability to the residents and businesses of Burlington; and

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WHEREAS, the Project entails installing an additional 115 KV line from VELCO's Essex substation to the East Avenue substation; expanding the East Avenue substation to accommodate the new line and transformer(s); installing a new 1.5 mile 34.5 KV line from the East Avenue substation to the McNeil substation; expanding the 34.5 KV structure at the McNeil substation within the existing fence to accommodate the new 34.5 KV line and a relocated substation from Lake Street along the Waterfront; and relocating BED's Waterfront aerial lines between Lake Street and Maple Street; and

WHEREAS, the Project will allow BED to avoid paying transmission charges to Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP") for BED's share of McNeil power, which presently costs Burlington ratepayers approximately \$340,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, the Project would allow BED to relocate and underground its aerial lines between the Lake Street substation and Maple Street, thereby furthering the interests and desires of the citizens of the State of Vermont and the residents of the greater Burlington area for a Waterfront view unobstructed by power lines; and

WHEREAS, the Project puts an underlying transmission system in place that will allow GMP to consider removal of its waterfront lines as part of Phase II of the Project, which is presently projected to occur in year 2010; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2008, the Vermont Public Service Board ("PSB") issued a certificate of public good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §248 authorizing construction of the Project; and

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WHEREAS, 30 V.S.A. §248(c) requires that the Project be approved by a majority of Burlington voters at a duly warned annual or special meeting, and requires BED to provide the voters a written assessment of the risks and benefits of the Project as identified by the PSB; and

WHEREAS, BED desires to present the Project to Burlington voters at a special City Meeting to be held on September 9, 2008, so construction of this important reliability project is not unduly delayed to the detriment of Burlington ratepayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Burlington, that the following referendum question be placed upon the ballot of a special City Meeting to be held September 9, 2008:

**REFERENDUM – APPROVAL OF EAST AVENUE LOOP PROJECT**

“Shall construction of the East Avenue Loop transmission upgrade project, which will provide a looped transmission feed to the East Avenue substation to avoid loss of load and greatly enhance electric service reliability to the residents and businesses of Burlington, with such construction having been previously approved by the Vermont Public Service Board, be approved?\*

\* Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §248(c), a written assessment of the risks and benefits of the proposed construction of the East Avenue Loop project which were identified by the Public Service Board and believed to exist by the Burlington Electric Department is being provided to the voters by making copies available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer and at the office of Burlington Electric Department.”