



## State of Vermont

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Department of Environmental Conservation  
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December 17, 2004

Susan Hudson, Clerk  
Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State St. Drawer 20  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket No. 6967, Honeysuckle Control

Dear Ms. Hudson:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council (VPAC) in regards to the Certificate of Public Good issued on August 11, 2004 pursuant to the control of honeysuckle in the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS)/VICON utility corridor near Rutland, Vermont. VPAC is authorized by statute to review utility right-of-way vegetation management plans and to provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) regarding the annual permitting of vegetation control activities. The three Departments of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) are represented on the VPAC and approval of Vegetation Management Plans by those representatives constitutes an approval by the Secretary of ANR.

CVPS came to VPAC for guidance and an opinion in regard to the Certificate of Public Good issued by the PSB. It is the opinion of VPAC that consultation with VPAC is consistent with the intent of the PSB that CVPS consult with ANR in regards to the development of a plan "outlining methods for controlling honeysuckle in the VICON corridor". In addition, VPAC consulted with Scott Pfister, administrator of the Vermont Noxious Weed Quarantine Rule for the AAFM, and Kathy Decker, representing the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation on the Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Committee.

VPAC appreciates the attention that the PSB has brought to the issue of invasive plants in ROW corridors. Clearly CVPS is in an excellent position to address this issue given a professional staff of foresters and plant specialists as well as an active program of vegetation surveillance and control. VPAC agrees that there is a role for CVPS to play in the struggle to control the establishment and spread of invasive plant species populations.

