

ATTACHMENT A

VELCO/Charlotte Agreement Regarding Vegetation Management in the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge

November 30, 2007

The Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge is a valuable regional resource that preserves, for wildlife habitat, agricultural, and recreational use, 290 acres of woodlands, wetlands and farm fields with outstanding scenic vistas. It is the goal of this provision to protect the scenic and natural qualities of the Park in a manner consistent with the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Comprehensive Management Plan while allowing VELCO's Northwest Vermont Reliability Project to move forward, having in mind that public safety and the reliability of Vermont's transmission grid necessitate that VELCO's transmission corridors be managed so that vegetation located within or adjacent to the right-of-way does not come in contact with transmission-line conductor or other facilities.

In clearing the transmission corridor on Park land VELCO shall use all reasonable efforts to retain existing vegetation within the 115 kV right-of-way ("ROW") and the area adjacent to the ROW and shall use special vegetation-management practices, including clearing within the "wire zone" and "border zone" only incompatible vegetation (vegetation that exceeds a mature height of 12 feet), as identified in VELCO's 2007 Transmission Vegetation Management Plan ("TVMP"), and compatible vegetation known to have invasive characteristics in Vermont (identified in the TVMP as Japanese Barberry, Honeysuckles, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive, Common Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn); provided, however, that nothing herein shall be interpreted as preventing VELCO from removing or clearing vegetation to maintain the clearances set forth in VELCO's TVMP or from otherwise removing plant species identified as incompatible under the TVMP. Further, nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit VELCO from undertaking clearing or other vegetation-management activities necessary or appropriate to conform to applicable regional or national electric-reliability or vegetation-management standards for ROWs established by ISO New England Inc., the Northeast Power Coordinating Council or the North American Electric Reliability Council, as the same may be amended or modified from time to time, provided the Town of Charlotte is notified of changes in standards and given the opportunity to request mitigation of impacts that may result from modified management practices.

The parties further acknowledge that VELCO will be permitted to clear to the extent necessary to gain access to the corridor, for construction and maintenance purposes, and in areas around each structure for installation/removal of poles, as indicated on VELCO's site plan entitled "Construction Site Plan For: Northwest Reliability Project from New Haven to Queen City, Vermont," prepared by SGC Engineering, LLC, last revised 10/19/07, and submitted to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for environmental-review purposes. Following construction, re-growth of non-invasive compatible species will be favored within the transmission corridor to create a diverse cover of vegetation for the benefit of wildlife, control of erosion, and to reduce the need for additional vegetation

management during subsequent management cycles. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit VELCO from undertaking or the parties from agreeing to additional vegetation management— including cooperation between VELCO and the Town to further manage invasive exotic plant species by planting compatible native trees and shrubs once control of incompatible vegetation has been established.

The Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Management Plan states that “natural herbicides and pesticides” will be used as needed on agricultural land. Where permitted by the Town, herbicide use in the transmission corridor (to the extent not otherwise restricted by applicable permits or Board Order) will be used selectively and limited to low volume backpack application. Herbicide applications will be reviewed prior to application and not made without permission of the Town of Charlotte.