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**VIA ePSB and U.S. MAIL**  
May 16, 2017

Judith C. Whitney, Clerk  
VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD  
People's United Bank Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket No. 8791  
Investigation pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 209 regarding the alleged  
taking of harsh sunflower plants by Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. in Monkton,  
Vermont

Dear Ms. Whitney:

On behalf of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. ("VGS" or the "Company"), I submit this response to the Proposal for Decision issued by Hearing Officer Michael Tousley in this matter on May 2, 2017, which was provided to counsel via ePSB on May 10.

VGS appreciates the Hearing Officer's acknowledgement of the mitigating steps the Company took. In an effort to achieve a final resolution of this matter, VGS will not oppose the Hearing Officer's Proposal for Decision, nor seek further process in this matter. It is Vermont Gas' understanding that should the Board adopt the Hearing Officer's recommendation, Vermont Gas will pay a \$25,000 penalty to the State of Vermont in lieu of the \$6,000 payment to the New England Wildflower Society proposed by the parties.

Judith C. Whitney, Clerk  
May 16, 2017  
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Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

SHEEHEY FURLONG & BEHM P.C.



Debra Bouffard

DLB/ams

Cc: Aaron Kisicki, Esq. (via ePSB)  
Donald Einhorn, Esq. (via ePSB)