Vermont Gas
CLEAN ENERGY. CLEAN AIR.

Judith Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

VIA HAND DELIVERY
July 19, 2016

Re: **Docket No. 7970**
        Petition of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.

I write on behalf of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. ("VGS") to inform the Public Service Board ("Board") and the parties of an event that occurred late yesterday on property owned by Vermont Gas in Monkton, Vermont at 57 Cedar Lane.

The incident occurred while contractors were preparing an area in Monkton within the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline ("ANGP") corridor on the Property for a horizontal directional drill. This is the same drilling activity VGS provided notification to the Board, the Department, and the other parties in Docket 7970 on Friday, July 15. In preparation of the HDD, the contractors inadvertently disturbed Harsh Sunflower Plants in the area while cutting vegetation in an area outside of the project's "limits of disturbance," as specified in project plans.

Vermont Gas immediately required the crew to stop work and has notified the appropriate Agency of Natural Resources ("ANR") representatives. All work at that site has ceased while we work at ANR to determine next steps, and to submit the appropriate documentation to the Board.

We will conduct a thorough investigation, working with regulators and our environmental consultants to evaluate the impact of what occurred, and to take appropriate remedial measures, which will likely include the need for an after-the-fact Takings Permit for the impacted Harsh Sunflower plants. Vermont Gas will work closely with the ANR to address all regulatory issues.

We take this matter extremely seriously and will undertake what is necessary to address it before recommencing construction on the property (consistent with the requirements of the certificate of public good). We will keep the Board and the parties informed of further actions in this regard.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John St. Hilaire
Vice President of Operations, Vermont Gas