

**State of Vermont**  
**Department of Public Service**  
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February 7, 2017

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN FILED ELECTRONICALLY USING ePSB**

Ms. Judith C. Whitney, Clerk  
Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

Re: Vermont Gas/Harsh Sunflower Investigation -Docket 8791

Dear Ms. Whitney:

On January 31, 2017, Hearing Officer Tousley convened a status conference in this matter. At that time, the parties committed to submit for the Public Service Board's ("Board") consideration a procedural schedule for the remainder of the docket.

Given the public comments that the Department of Public Service ("Department") understands have been submitted to the Board in connection with this matter, the Department recommends that the Board convene a public hearing on this matter in the Town of Monkton. The Department will be present at the public hearing, and has asked the Agency of Natural Resources ("ANR") and Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. ("VGS") to attend the public hearing in order for all parties to this proceeding to hear the comments presented to the Board. In addition, the Department recommends that VGS and ANR be available at the beginning of the public hearing to describe the separate ANR investigation into this matter that has already been concluded. Both ANR and VGS plan to attend the public hearing.

Within 30 days of the public hearing, the parties propose to submit either 1) a proposed stipulation to resolve some or all of the issues in this proceeding, or 2) a schedule for further additional proceedings if a resolution cannot be reached. The Department recommends that the Board schedule a two week period in which members of the public may submit to the Board written public comments on any proposed stipulation filed by the parties.

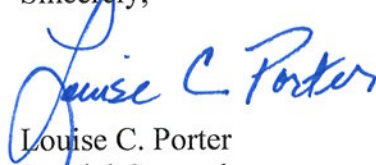


I have conferred with counsel to ANR and VGS and the parties agree to the following schedule:

- Public Hearing ----- March 9 ,or March 13-16
- Stipulation or further schedule----- April 14
- Deadline for written public comments  
if a Stipulation is reached----- April 28

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Louise C. Porter  
Special Counsel

cc: Service List