STATE OF VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 18-1633-PET

Petition of Green Mountain Power for approval) of a multi-year regulation plan pursuant to 30) V.S.A. §§ 209, 218, and 218d

PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF MARY G. POWELL **ON BEHALF OF GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER**

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February 4, 2019

Summary of Testimony

Mary Powell provides an overview of GMP's rebuttal testimony related to the proposed Multi-Year Regulation Plan ("MYRP" or the "Plan"), including GMP's response to comments provided by the Department of Public Service ("DPS" or the "Department") and Renewable Energy Vermont ("REV"). Ms. Powell highlights the parties' shared goals for the Plan to foster innovation and strong company performance for customers while creating a more simple, transparent, and stable rate path. She describes how GMP proposes to revise its Plan to address comments from other parties and to further address the challenges of climate change, and why the changes GMP proposes are designed to deliver on our commitment to the Vermonters we serve.

EXHIBIT LIST

GMP-MGP-1 (Rev.)

Updated Multi-Year Plan Major Elements Summary

PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF MARY G. POWELL ON BEHALF OF GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER

1	Q1.	Please state your name, address and occupation.
2	A1.	My name is Mary Grace Powell, and I am the CEO of Green Mountain Power
3		Corporation.
4	Q2.	Have you previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?
5	A2.	Yes, I provided prefiled direct testimony in this proceeding dated June 4, 2018.
6	Q3.	What is the purpose of your testimony?
7	A3.	The purpose of my testimony is to provide an overview of GMP's rebuttal position in this
8		proceeding, and provide further context for the proposals and changes GMP has made to
9		its Multi-Year Regulation Plan in response to the testimony of other parties in this
10		proceeding, including the Department and REV. Underpinning all of these proposals is
11		our strong focus on ensuring the Plan will support our efforts to tackle climate change
12		and to provide innovation for our customers through cutting carbon.
13	Q4.	Do you have a general response to DPS's and REV's testimony?
14	A4.	Yes. I appreciate both Department's and REV's perspectives on the design and
15		implementation of a multi-year regulation plan and I am encouraged by the broad areas of
16		agreement I see as we all work to serve Vermonters in this time of rapid energy
17		transformation and climate change. All of us support adoption of a regulation plan, and

1 while there are some differences on the specific design of components we have proposed, 2 it is clear that all of us share several important goals. We all seek a Plan that will benefit 3 customers and help us achieve our state's climate, renewable, and other energy goals, and 4 we recognize that this Plan can provide a valuable tool for encouraging innovation and 5 energy transformation in a more efficient way compared to traditional protracted annual 6 cost of service filings. We also share a desire to create a Plan that is as simple and 7 transparent as possible, balancing the desire for certainty in anticipated costs over the life 8 of the Plan with the need for flexibility to confront the rapidly changing energy landscape 9 we all face. And to succeed, we all recognize that GMP needs to help accelerate our 10 state's adoption of cost-effective, reliable, innovative measures that limit the financial 11 and environmental impacts of climate change. This necessarily includes partnerships 12 with our customers to create more home-, business-, and community-based energy 13 systems, as well as with third-parties in the energy space that can leverage the tools and 14 resources GMP can provide so that together we can seize the opportunities before us and 15 best serve Vermonters.

16 The Plan we proposed last June was designed to achieve these common goals, and 17 we welcome DPS and REV's input to help us improve it. We said in our opening 18 testimony that we welcomed feedback and ideas, and we hope our rebuttal testimony 19 shows that we have taken a great deal of what the parties have offered to heart. The rest 20 of our rebuttal testimony outlines the changes we have made to address individual 21 recommendations provided by DPS and REV, along with other changes that we feel we 22 must propose to face head-on the challenge of climate change and the cost impacts in

1	front of us. I believe our revised Plan strikes the right balance for our customers by
2	providing mechanisms that are simple to implement, encourage cost efficiency, provide
3	as much certainty as possible for our customers, and offer the flexibility necessary to
4	continue our transformative efforts and confront the real and increasing threats posed by
5	climate change.

6 Q5. Can you summarize GMP's rebuttal position and explain how GMP's testimony is 7 organized?

8 A5. Yes. Below is an overview of our rebuttal filing, with reference to each witness and the
9 issues they cover. I have also attached a revised version of my original exhibit, which
10 summarizes the major components of our revised Plan, noting the primary changes from
11 our initial proposal. *See Exhibit-GMP-MP-1 (Rev.).*

12 Eddie Ryan, our Controller, responds to the DPS's comments on the Plan 13 regarding financial and rate-setting issues, and outlines GMP's proposed resolution of 14 DPS's recommendations. He notes that DPS and GMP largely agree on key components 15 of the Plan. Mr. Ryan then addresses the Department's recommendation that the Public 16 Utility Commission ("PUC" or the "Commission") adopt a comprehensive I-X formula 17 instead of the framework GMP proposed. This is the primary difference between our 18 position and the Department's. He explains why the Department's formula approach is 19 not in customers' best interest at this time, given its complexity and the other regulatory 20 obligations and circumstances facing GMP. Recognizing the goals of simplicity, 21 transparency, and stability the Department shares, Mr. Ryan offers improvements to 22 GMP's Plan designed to satisfy the Department's recommendations. Specifically, we

1 propose to lock not only base capital spending as previously described, but also to lock 2 other non-power costs based on the three-year forecast reviewed at the beginning of the 3 Plan. We also propose to use a rate smoothing adjustor during the Plan period to create a 4 more stable, predictable base rate path during the Plan period. In addition, Mr. Ryan 5 addresses several changed circumstances that have occurred since we filed the Plan in 6 June of 2018, all climate change-driven, including changes to the exogenous change 7 Major Storm collections, the addition of a new Emerald Ash Borer Adjustor to 8 proactively address this newly-discovered aggressive infestation in Vermont, and the 9 ability to file for approval of a Climate Resiliency Plan, as I discuss further below. He 10 also provides GMP's response to DPS's recommendations on other features of the Plan, 11 such as the ESAM sharing bands.

12 **Doug Smith**, our Chief Power Supply Executive, addresses the Department's 13 recommendations for changes to the Power Supply Adjustor. He explains why the Department's proposal for moving some categories of costs out of the PSA and into base 14 rates does not meet the criteria they offer to justify the move. He believes there is no 15 16 compelling reason for the changes the Department seeks because they ultimately create a 17 more complex process that will not yield material benefit for customers. He also explains 18 why the PSA should continue to use a symmetrical dead-band for addressing variances in 19 power costs, consistent with the way the PSA has historically been implemented over the 20 past 10 years. Mr. Smith finally addresses some inaccurate claims in REV's testimony 21 regarding the change in GMP's power supply costs over the past five years.

Brian Otley, our Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, describes GMP's updated proposal for the specific performance metrics that should be tracked over the term of the Plan, taking into account both DPS and REV's recommendations for 3 revisions to these measures. The list of performance metrics we propose is lengthy, but also exciting. It shows the significant alignment between these diverse parties to achieve a better energy future for Vermonters.

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- 7 Josh Castonguay, our Vice President, Chief Innovation Executive, responds to 8 the Department and REV's recommended changes to GMP's Innovative Pilot program. 9 He explains that GMP accepts the Department's proposal to require GMP to seek PUC 10 approval for any individual pilot program that is anticipated to exceed \$5 million. He 11 also explains that while we disagree with REV's perspective on GMP's role in pursuing 12 innovative programs, we believe there are some reasonable changes in the Plan that 13 would facilitate greater coordination with REV, and would provide greater opportunity 14 for third-party partnerships, both of which we welcome.
- 15 James Coyne, an expert with Concentric Energy Advisors, Inc., provides further 16 background on the challenges presented by the Department's proposal to apply a 17 comprehensive I-X formula for setting our base rates. He explains why the methodology 18 proposed by the Department is neither simple nor transparent. It is, in his opinion, 19 generally out of step with current best practices for regulation plan design. Mr. Coyne 20 also responds to the Department's proposed mechanism for Return on Equity ("ROE") 21 adjustments, and explains why the methodology recommended by GMP produces less 22 volatile results that tend to track market conditions better.

1 Q6. How does GMP respond to REVs recommendations in this proceeding? 2 A6. Generally speaking, REV's comments focus on specific aspects of the Plan relevant to 3 the interests of its developer and energy services company members—namely the manner 4 in which GMP pursues energy transformation projects in Vermont, and the opportunities 5 for third-party energy service companies to participate in these transformation efforts. As 6 noted above, GMP shares the goal of advancing this transformation work together with 7 other third-party providers, and doing it in a way that is cost-effective, cuts carbon, and 8 benefits our customers. There is much work to be done in this area. The type of radical 9 transformation we seek requires more partners than ever, and we know we can 10 accomplish more on behalf of customers through strategic collaboration. 11 As described further in Mr. Castonguay's testimony, we are open to, and in fact 12 are already actively pursuing, additional opportunities to partner with third-party 13 providers in Vermont to help us accelerate the type of innovative energy services our customers want and need. We also welcome the chance to collaborate more closely and 14 15 directly with REV in the development of our pilot programs. We already consult with 16 REV and its members often as projects emerge, and have started to deepen this relationship through recent meetings regarding our pilot designs and other opportunities. 17 18 We're open to incorporating REV consultation more formally into the pilot program. All 19 of those steps make perfect sense, and are consistent with our effort to help develop a 20 new, more innovative, cost-effective, low-carbon energy system here in Vermont, which 21 will undoubtedly require focused, collaborative effort among all stakeholders as we all 22 move quickly to deliver results for our customers.

1 **Q7**. Are there aspects of REV's testimony that raise concerns for you? 2 A7. Yes. After reading REV's testimony, I am concerned that the vision I outlined above for 3 collaboration and partnership between GMP and REV's members is not fully embraced 4 by REV. In particular, I was discouraged, frankly, by the narrow view REV's witnesses 5 offer of GMP's role in advancing innovation here in Vermont. They suggest in several 6 places that GMP should leave the development and implementation of innovative energy 7 services and programs to REV's private, for-profit members, focusing only on our "core" 8 distribution business. I fundamentally disagree with this perspective of GMP's "core" 9 business, and the related narrow view of GMP's obligations and responsibilities to our 10 customers. It is exactly this old-world, traditional view of utilities that has led to the 11 current crisis in our industry. When utilities fail to innovate, costs for customers 12 increase. 13 As I explained in my opening testimony in this proceeding, I view our leadership 14 in transforming the energy sector for our customers as one of our most important 15 responsibilities. This work is not ancillary to, or outside of our "core" responsibility to 16 our customers—rather it is central to that responsibility. This is consistent with the legislative mandate in the Renewable Energy Standard statute and also with the State's 17

Comprehensive Energy Plan. We must pursue every reasonable opportunity to improve the reliability of our system while driving down costs. We will continue to lean into this innovative work, and GMP will always look for new opportunities to produce benefits for our customers, while advancing Vermont's energy goals for a low-carbon, low-cost energy system. We hope to do this by spurring market demand that can be met by partners who can leverage our systems, so that we can collectively take advantage of the
 opportunities before us—for the benefit of all of our customers, not just those who can
 afford to invest their own capital in individual systems.

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How do you respond to REV's concerns regarding GMP's participation in

innovative services?

6 A8. I am concerned that REV's perspective ignores the critical role GMP has played in 7 advancing and developing the very markets that have benefited and will continue to 8 benefit both REV's members, and our customers, in the future. GMP helped pioneer the 9 design of net-metering here in Vermont, offering the first solar adder in order to spur 10 home and business based local renewable projects. Our program served as the model that 11 was ultimately adopted state-wide by the legislature, and which undoubtedly kick-started 12 the rapid growth of this market in Vermont. We are proud of the role we played there— 13 the solar adder was a necessary and important step at that time, tailored to help advance 14 more low-carbon, cost-effective energy sources for our customers, and it created 15 opportunities for many member REV businesses. Similarly, GMP's early focus on, and 16 education related to, cold climate heat pumps lead to the development of a market here in 17 Vermont for those systems that is now largely dominated by third-party sellers and 18 installers.

We see the same cycle of initial utility development, followed by greater thirdparty offerings and implementation, occurring in the new home energy storage markets.
REV critiques the structure of GMP's battery storage programs in their testimony, but the
truth is that there was no meaningful market for home energy storage solutions in

1		Vermont prior to GMP's efforts to launch this market with our Powerwall program. Our
2		efforts to develop this market with Tesla, a well-known third-party provider, have helped
3		focus public attention on these opportunities and have provided education on storage to
4		create broader consumer interest. It also allowed us to develop the internal utility
5		platforms needed to understand the management of these systems and expand the offering
6		to other third parties. We don't view any of this work as undermining an existing
7		competitive market place-quite to the contrary, we played an instrumental role in
8		creating the marketplace which is helping third parties now sell storage to Vermonters.
9		All of this work is critical in my view if we are to successfully confront the real
10		challenges and threats posed by climate change, which continue to impose increased
11		costs on customers.
12	00	Do you have a general response to the Department's recommendations regarding
12	Q9.	Do you have a general response to the Department's recommendations regarding
12 13	Q9.	Do you have a general response to the Department's recommendations regarding GMP's Plan?
	Q9. A9.	
13		GMP's Plan?
13 14		GMP's Plan? I am glad to see many areas of agreement between the Department and GMP on the goals
13 14 15		GMP's Plan? I am glad to see many areas of agreement between the Department and GMP on the goals and provisions of the Plan. I think the Commission's proceeding on the future of
13 14 15 16		GMP's Plan? I am glad to see many areas of agreement between the Department and GMP on the goals and provisions of the Plan. I think the Commission's proceeding on the future of regulation, along with the pitfalls in traditional rate regulation we have seen while
13 14 15 16 17		GMP's Plan? I am glad to see many areas of agreement between the Department and GMP on the goals and provisions of the Plan. I think the Commission's proceeding on the future of regulation, along with the pitfalls in traditional rate regulation we have seen while litigating the last two rate cases, helped us define common ground. GMP's other
 13 14 15 16 17 18 		GMP's Plan? I am glad to see many areas of agreement between the Department and GMP on the goals and provisions of the Plan. I think the Commission's proceeding on the future of regulation, along with the pitfalls in traditional rate regulation we have seen while litigating the last two rate cases, helped us define common ground. GMP's other witnesses point out concerns we have with the Department's specific recommendation to
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 		GMP's Plan? I am glad to see many areas of agreement between the Department and GMP on the goals and provisions of the Plan. I think the Commission's proceeding on the future of regulation, along with the pitfalls in traditional rate regulation we have seen while litigating the last two rate cases, helped us define common ground. GMP's other witnesses point out concerns we have with the Department's specific recommendation to adopt a comprehensive I-X formula approach to base rates. Perhaps the greatest concern

1	complexities and uncertainties presented by the Department's recommendation do not
2	seem to fit the goals of simplicity and transparency we share with the Department. We
3	have stretched in this rebuttal to formulate changes to our Plan that will meet the
4	Department's concerns by providing greater certainty for customers without putting us in
5	the middle of new problems and complexities that threaten to artificially dampen our
6	progress.

7 Q10. As you consider how the Plan would affect GMP and its customers over the

8 proposed three-year period, what are your greatest areas of focus or concern?

9 A10. I think back to the conversation we had with the Commission and its staff at the

10 workshop last summer. At that hearing, I noted that the constrained base capital spending

11 proposed in this Plan gives me, and my whole team, anxiety because of the many

12 important upgrades and resiliency improvements that are needed.¹ Mr. Otley, who leads

13 our capital team, also highlighted his concern about the project investment tradeoffs that

14 GMP may have to make, especially in this time of more frequent and ferocious storms.²

15 These discussions in various ways concerned the same central issue: how can GMP keep

16 our "traditional" transmission and distribution ("T&D") system healthy and reliable for

17 customers, at a price they can afford, while also transforming as rapidly as possible to a

smarter, more distributed grid supported by more local-, home-, and community-based

19 renewable energy?

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¹ Case No. 18-1633-PET, Transcript (Tr.) at 7:1-9:25 and 12:10-13:20 (8/3/18).

² Case No. 18-1633-PET, Tr. at 29:6-31:12 (8/3/18).

1	Just a few months later, our team was completing GMP's 2018 Integrated
2	Resource Plan-setting forth our best thinking on exactly this topic-when we were hit
3	with the fourth most costly storm in our company's history. The weather at the end of
4	November may not even have seemed remarkable to the average Vermonter, given the
5	storms we've experienced in the last few years, but it caused Vermont to seek a disaster
6	declaration for five counties and it cost GMP customers nearly \$12 million-doubling in
7	one fell swoop our major storm costs for the year. The irony was not lost on me that at
8	exactly the same time as we were writing out our orderly plans to address infrastructure,
9	planning and innovation in the next several years, Mother Nature was providing her
10	feedback: we need to do more.
11	Coming out of that storm, we challenged ourselves to rethink our assumptions,
12	and we are now in the process of evaluating the need for a comprehensive Climate
13	Resiliency Plan ("CRP") that would focus directly on further storm hardening of GMP's
14	transmission and distribution system. GMP is not proposing that the Plan be incorporated
15	into the MYRP at this time, but we believe that it may be prudent to seek review and
16	approval of such a resiliency plan from the Commission during the term of the Plan and
17	so have proposed a mechanism to allow that. One need only look at examples around the
18	country of devastating storm damage to realize that accelerating this targeted planning
19	really should not wait for the next rate case or regulation plan cycle. We need as much
20	innovation in this area as we have been applying to the rise of distributed energy in

21 Vermont.

1	Q11.	In your opening testimony, you spoke about the concerns you have with the
2		increasing costs of climate change in Vermont and the impact climate change is
3		having on GMP customers. Are there additional facts or circumstances that you
4		can share about these costs since the MYRP was filed in June of 2018?
5	A11.	Yes, there are. As I mentioned, as a result of the November 2018 storm, our annual
6		uncollected major storm costs jumped from approximately \$12 million to nearly \$24
7		million. Figuring out how to collect these costs in a sustainable, affordable manner
8		during the term of the Plan is a significant challenge. As a result of these increasing
9		costs, GMP has revised its original proposal for the collection of major storm costs under
10		the MYRP. Mr. Ryan describes this adjustment further. This storm is yet another "major
11		storm" in a series of more frequent and severe storms driven by climate change, and as
12		these costs mount, we are continuing to evaluate how we can best mitigate the increased
13		impacts of these events on customers, from both a reliability and a cost perspective.
14	Q12.	Can you provide some other specific examples of these climate change impacts on
15		GMP's T&D system?
16	A12.	Yes. As Vermont's weather patterns continue to shift due to climate change, GMP is
17		facing more frequent and more severe impacts to its T&D infrastructure. Simply stated,
18		the two major effects of climate change in Vermont are warming temperatures (in
19		summer, and even more so in winter) and increasing precipitation levels. Both of these
20		effects contribute to an increase in the frequency and the severity of the types of weather
21		events that have the most damaging impact to GMP's T&D infrastructure. These weather
22		events include severe thunderstorms with embedded high winds, gradient wind events,

1	high-water-content snow events, and freezing rain/ice events. These types of storms and
2	events create high winds and heavy weights on trees and T&D lines, causing severe
3	damage and outages to system infrastructure. Notably, a lot of the damage that we are
4	seeing to our T&D infrastructure are from trees falling from well outside of our right of
5	way. Three of GMP's largest severe weather events ever (in terms of the number of
6	customers impacted) have occurred since December 2014, and forecasters predict this
7	trend to accelerate.
8	In December 2014, Vermont was hit with a statewide snowstorm, which dumped
9	a blanket of high-water-content snow (meaning snow that is very heavy, wet, and sticky)
10	that sat cement-like on trees and lines for days. Almost 150,000 GMP customers lost
11	power, with nearly 40,000 people without power at the peak of the event. Power was
12	restored over an eight-day period, and the restoration costs of this event were \$17.5
13	million.
14	On Halloween 2017, a severe gradient wind event swept through Vermont,
15	bringing wind gusts of 115 miles per hour to the ridgelines of the Green Mountains and
16	80-mile-per-hour gusts down to the valleys. Weather forecasters did not predict this
17	event to reach wind speeds anywhere near these levels. Almost 125,000 GMP customers
18	had power restored over a five-day period, 81,000 of which were without power at the
19	peak of the event. The restoration costs of this event were almost \$8 million.
20	The late November 2018 storm mentioned above provides yet another example.
21	It was another high-water-content snow event that blanketed Vermont with a heavy, wet
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1		customers were impacted during this event, with a peak outage of 52,000 customers.
2		GMP was not alone in experiencing these weather impacts. During these events, nearly
3		all of Vermont's distribution utilities were impacted and coordinated to restore power to
4		electrical customers over an extended period. The restoration costs of this event for GMP
5		were \$12 million.
6		In between these major events is a running list of smaller weather events that have
7		resulted in GMP and the other Vermont utilities consistently needing to repair damage to
8		T&D infrastructure. Isolated damage from wind, thunderstorm, and icing events is a
9		constant aspect of GMP's operations, but one that is becoming increasingly more time
10		consuming and expensive. Our analysis of weather trends in Vermont and nationally
11		indicates that these events are likely to just continue increasing.
12	013	Are there other climate specific impacts that are driving greater costs for CMP
12	Q13.	Are there other climate specific impacts that are driving greater costs for GMP
12 13	Q13.	Are there other climate specific impacts that are driving greater costs for GMP customers?
	Q13. A13.	
13	-	customers?
13 14	-	customers? Yes. In addition to major storm costs, non-storm climate change impacts to Vermont are
13 14 15	-	customers? Yes. In addition to major storm costs, non-storm climate change impacts to Vermont are also causing new threats to our operating environment, such as the Emerald Ash Borer
13 14 15 16	-	customers? Yes. In addition to major storm costs, non-storm climate change impacts to Vermont are also causing new threats to our operating environment, such as the Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB"), an invasive insect that kills ash trees. Due to warming temperatures, the
13 14 15 16 17	-	customers? Yes. In addition to major storm costs, non-storm climate change impacts to Vermont are also causing new threats to our operating environment, such as the Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB"), an invasive insect that kills ash trees. Due to warming temperatures, the presence of the EAB has moved northward, arriving in Vermont for the first time just
13 14 15 16 17 18	-	customers? Yes. In addition to major storm costs, non-storm climate change impacts to Vermont are also causing new threats to our operating environment, such as the Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB"), an invasive insect that kills ash trees. Due to warming temperatures, the presence of the EAB has moved northward, arriving in Vermont for the first time just recently. Once infested, the EAB has a 99% kill rate on ash trees and is expected to have
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	-	customers? Yes. In addition to major storm costs, non-storm climate change impacts to Vermont are also causing new threats to our operating environment, such as the Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB"), an invasive insect that kills ash trees. Due to warming temperatures, the presence of the EAB has moved northward, arriving in Vermont for the first time just recently. Once infested, the EAB has a 99% kill rate on ash trees and is expected to have significant impact in Vermont over the next years. We have many, many ash trees in our

1	further in Mr. Ryan's testimony, GMP will be proposing a new targeted adjustor
2	mechanism in the MYRP to cover the anticipated costs associated with this infestation,
3	which we presently project at \$1.2M per year, but could accelerate if the spread of EAB
4	advances faster. I make this point about the EAB simply to further illustrate that climate
5	change impacts are real, are being felt now, and are expected to accelerate in the years
6	ahead.

Q14. What options is the Company considering for additional climate-change related storm mitigation and hardening?

9 A14. In addition to the existing T&D maintenance and storm-hardening work we expect to 10 complete during the term of the Plan, GMP is starting the process of analyzing the need 11 for a more specific and robust Climate Resiliency Plan, in order to accelerate our efforts 12 to address these impacts on our T&D system. We are in the initial phase of evaluating 13 what this plan would look like, taking into account best practices, information from past 14 storm-hardening projects, least cost alternatives, and the overall costs and benefits of 15 relative options. Although we do not have a specific proposal for the Commission at this 16 time, we would ask for a provision in the MYRP providing GMP an opportunity to file 17 such a plan, subject to PUC review and approval, within the plan period. This plan 18 would likely involve capital spending targeted at increased storm hardening as well as 19 newer techniques, such as strategic undergrounding, along with additional O&M 20 expenses for corridor maintenance and targeted non-poles and wires alternatives where 21 appropriate. We raise this issue now because it is likely that we cannot wait until the end

1 of the Plan period to commence this work, and do not believe the work can be 2 accomplished within the established caps in the Plan. 3 This is particularly true because we have, as described in my opening testimony 4 and that of Mr. Otley, constrained base capital spending during the Plan period. The last 5 thing I want to see is our good efforts to reduce overall capital spending cost Vermonters 6 more down the road; rather than seek a higher base capital investment level in this 7 proceeding, we simply want to alert the Commission to the needs we perceive and gain 8 permission to bring them to the Commission for approval during the Plan period if 9 warranted. In the event that GMP proposes such a plan during the term of the MYRP, it 10 would be supported by analysis demonstrating why the additional expenditures are 11 necessary, appropriate, and in the best interests of customers.

12 Staving ahead of this issue is important for our customers, which is why we are 13 raising the issue now. Just in the past month we have seen a major utility go into bankruptcy proceedings in what is being called the first "Climate Change bankruptcy." 14 15 While the climate risks we face in Vermont are different than in some other states, they 16 are just as potentially significant. From where we sit, the biggest challenge we face is the increasing severity of storms, particularly winter storms, which are warmer and wetter. It 17 18 will take continued, focused, and proactive measures to respond to these dramatic shifts 19 in weather caused by climate change so that our customers do not experience 20 substantially decreased reliability or rapidly escalating costs associated with changing 21 climate impacts. That is the goal of our work in this area.

1	Q15.	Are there any other thoughts you want to share with the Commission regarding this
2		Plan or the changes GMP proposes in this rebuttal testimony?
3	A15.	Only that, as is probably clear from the rest of my testimony, I am more convinced than
4		ever that all of these issues—a more resilient grid, a more renewable supply, a more local
5		energy system, a more affordable energy future for Vermonters-are closely intertwined
6		and require focused, directed, disciplined work to balance. That work will happen
7		through the greater collaboration and communication supported by this Plan, both in its
8		express performance metrics and in the processes utilized by the Commission for
9		reporting and monitoring our progress during its term. Traditional rate regulation, with
10		its retrospective framework, cannot hope to match that support. We welcome the chance
11		to work with the Commission, the Department, and other parties to implement a forward-
12		looking Plan that helps us deliver for our customers.

- 13 Q16. Does that conclude your testimony today?
- 14 A16. Yes, it does.