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**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

PRESS RELEASE

Public Utility Commission Appoints Deputy General Counsel and Policy Director

Montpelier, VT (November 29, 2017) – Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) appointed a new Deputy General Counsel and a new Policy Director.

Staff attorney John Cotter will be the new PUC Deputy General Counsel. In addition to assisting the General Counsel, he will continue to serve as a team leader, hearing officer, and key support to the Commission in major cases. He also will provide legal advice to the Commission and Commission staff.

Cotter joined the PUC in April 2010 and has served as a staff attorney and hearing officer since that time. He has presided over many cases and served as lead staff on several cases that were presided over directly by the Commission. Prior to joining the PUC, he served as a staff attorney at the Department of Public Service beginning in November 2000, and he worked in private practice at the law firm of Ward, Kelley & Babb in South Burlington. He received his law degree from Vermont Law School in 1993 and a journalism degree from Saint Michael’s College in 1983.

Tom Knauer will be the PUC Policy Director. In this position, he will research, analyze, and advise the Commission on emerging policy issues in the energy and utility arenas. He will also alert and advise the Commission on policy trends and on innovative approaches to regulation in other jurisdictions. He will continue to serve as a hearing officer and team leader.

Knauer joined the Commission in April 2010 and most recently served as a Utilities Analyst. He has been a team leader on energy efficiency programs and has helped implement state policies such as the Renewable Energy Standard and the Standard Offer Program. Prior to joining the Commission, he was a research analyst at Prentiss Smith & Company in Burlington, a senior analyst at Secure Financial Services in Colchester, and an associate scientist at PolyStor Corporation, a lithium-ion battery manufacturer in Livermore, Calif. He received a degree in physics from Middlebury College in 2000.

Commission Chair Anthony Roisman said, “I am pleased to announce that the Commission has selected John Cotter to be the new Deputy General Counsel and Tom Knauer to be the new Policy Director. The management team selected them after interviews with several highly qualified applicants for each position.”

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For immediate release. For more information, contact: Anthony Roisman, Chair, Public Utility Commission, (802) 828-2358, anthony.roisman@vermont.gov.