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Comments: I have been a member of the town of Barnard's energy committee for nine years. The purpose of committees like ours throughout the state is to help Vermonters to 1) understand patterns of modern living which have the effect of stressing earth's ecosystems beyond their carrying capacity and 2) undertake practical steps which can significantly reduce these impacts in the coming years. To prepare ourselves for this work, we have attended many webinars over the years, including your recent presentation on four alternatives for the Telephone Gap IRP in the Green Mountain National Forest.

I want to say that alternatives C and D are among the most exciting developments I've witnessed in this energy work. In alternative C, thank you for your willingness to estimate the carbon sequestration properties of mature and old-growth forest parcels and to carefully design a management plan which includes this analysis as one of several important factors. Adding the consideration of the carbon footprint of harvesting activities in alternative D is a crucial new criterion as well. By offering both as examples of state-of-the-art forest management, you are providing inspiring leadership at a critical turning point-this time when we need to change the underlying mindset of so many of our human systems.

I am so grateful to you for this work. I hope that you will choose either C or D for implementation and subsequent case-in-point monitoring. My own preference is for alternative D because it seems to more completely encompass the carbon issues.