

## Asa S. Hopkins, Ph.D., Principal Associate

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Synapse Energy Economics Inc.**, Cambridge, MA. *Principal Associate*, January 2017 – present.

Conducts research and writes expert testimony and reports related to state energy policy and planning, energy efficiency, strategic electrification, deep decarbonization, and the present and future of the electric grid and utility regulatory and business models.

**Vermont Public Service Department**, Montpelier, VT. *Director of Energy Policy and Planning*, October 2011 – December 2016

#### State energy planning and utility regulation

- Directed the year-long development of the 2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan, including stakeholder meetings, public forums, and coordination of contributions from other departments and the Governor's office. Primary author of the executive summary and five chapters.
- Led the Department's approach to establishing budgets and performance targets for energy efficiency utilities. Oversaw staff conducting program evaluation and savings verification.
- Submitted testimony and conducted analysis in support of public advocacy and negotiation in prominent litigated regulatory proceedings.

#### Policy development, analysis, and advocacy

- Developed the structure of Vermont's 2015 Renewable Energy Standard, including its novel "energy transformation" requirement. Worked with stakeholders to develop support for the policy and with the legislature to shepherd it to passage. This policy will result in more reduction of Vermont's GHG emissions than any others passed in the last 15 years.
- Led execution of Vermont's Total Energy Study, which examined technology and policy pathways for Vermont to meet GHG emission and renewable energy goals.
- Led cost-benefit analysis of Vermont's existing net metering structure and led the development of departmental proposals for a new structure.
- Prepared and delivered public, stakeholder, and interagency presentations, including to agency and business leaders, legislative committees, and the governor.
- Oversaw programs providing financing, technical, and process assistance to clean energy projects.

During tenure, Vermont rose in the rankings on national clean energy state scorecards: ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard from 5th to 3rd and U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index from 10th to 3rd.

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**U.S. Department of Energy**, Washington, DC. *Special Advisor to the Under Secretary for Science / AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow*, September 2010 – August 2011

Dr. Hopkins served as the assistant project director for the Department of Energy's first Quadrennial Technology Review. In this role, he coordinated a team that solicited input from Department of Energy and National Laboratory staff and scientists, ran a series of public workshops, facilitated coordination with the White House, developed a set of technology assessments, and ultimately drafted the Report on the First QTR, published Sept. 27, 2011.

**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**, Berkeley, CA. *Environmental Energy Policy Postdoctoral Fellow*, January 2009 – August 2010

Conducted technical and economic analysis to support the Department of Energy in setting the energy efficiency standards that appliances must meet in order to be sold in the United States.

**California Institute of Technology**, Pasadena, CA. *Graduate Research Fellow*, 2002 – 2008

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**, Los Alamos, NM. *Post-Baccalaureate Researcher, Theoretical Division*, June 2001 – June 2002

## EDUCATION

**California Institute of Technology**, Pasadena, CA  
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics, 2008

**Haverford College**, Haverford, PA  
Bachelor of Science in Physics with minors in Computer Science, Growth and Structure of Cities, 2001

## SELECTED PROJECTS

***Northeastern Regional Assessment of Strategic Electrification*** – On behalf of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Synapse and Meister Consultants Group identified the opportunity, costs, and benefits available if strategic electrification is adopted as a key strategy for decarbonization in New York and New England. Dr. Hopkins, Kenji Takahashi, and Pat Knight are primary authors of the resulting report, published in July 2017, which characterizes the current markets for efficiency electrification technologies (such as heat pumps and electric vehicles), identifies policies to overcome market barriers, assesses the state of electrification technologies, and models the extent of electrification both possible given market dynamics and required to meet regional greenhouse gas emission goals.

***2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan*** – Directed the year-long development of the 2016 plan, including setting its strategic approach to current Vermont energy planning challenges and grounding it in quantitative analysis. Developed the public engagement process, then hosted expert stakeholder meetings and public forums. Adapted the results of the 2014 Total Energy Study to produce scenarios that illustrate the proposed pathways identified in the plan. Coordinated contributions from staff and

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leaders in other departments, and from the Governor's office. Wrote the executive summary and 5 of the 14 chapters.

**Total Energy Study** – Scoped and led a legislatively-mandated report on policy and technology pathways to meet Vermont's renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission goals. Designed and facilitated a focus-group-based stakeholder engagement process to identify technology and policy visions for analysis. Retained outside modeling consultant, then worked closely with them to build credible business-as-usual and policy case models of Vermont's energy economy to the year 2050 using the TIMES/FACETS integrated assessment model. Translated those model results to make REMI PI+ calculations of impact on Vermont GDP and jobs. Synthesized qualitative and quantitative results into intermediate and final reports identifying key outcomes for policy design.

**Net Metering Cost-Benefit Analyses and Program Design** – Conducted cost-benefit analyses of Vermont's current net metering program on a statewide and utility-by-utility basis, including analysis of both solar PV and small wind. Developed reports to the Vermont Legislature and to the Public Service Board detailing those results. Analysis supported expansion of the program to 15 percent of peak load and the requirement to develop a next-generation net metering program for implementation in 2017. Participated in stakeholder process and Board workshops to develop and explain proposals for the next net metering program. Developed the Department of Public Service's initial (value of solar) and final (retail rate with adjustments) proposals for the new structure.

**Demand Resources Plan Proceedings** – In each of three, three-year cycles, led the development of the Department of Public Service's positions regarding appropriate budgets, rate and bill impacts, and performance targets for Vermont's energy efficiency utilities. Analyzed current efficiency utility performance to calibrate expected future performance. Negotiated performance metrics that reflect policy priorities. Developed new regulatory and budget treatment of research and development for behavioral energy efficiency programs.

**Quadrennial Technology Review** – As Assistant Project Director, managed the project activities of the eight-person core team for the U.S. Department of Energy's first Quadrennial Technology Review. This review of DOE's energy technology activities established a robust framework and codified principles used to build DOE's energy technology portfolio (including identifying the appropriate and highest-leverage activities for DOE relative to the private sector and other government actors). Extensive collaboration and discussions within DOE, as well the public through a series of workshops with industry, government, national laboratory, and academic participation, culminated in the publication of the first DOE-QTR report in September 2011. Coordinated successful stakeholder workshops; facilitated focus groups. Drafted discussion papers that served as the basis for extensive intra- and inter-agency and White House coordination and negotiation. Primary author of the final report's section on building and industrial energy efficiency. Project was completed on schedule and on budget, and met its critical milestones.

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## REPORTS

Woolf, T., A. Hopkins, M. Whited, K. Takahashi, A. Napoleon. 2018. *Review of New Brunswick Power's 2018/2019 Rate Case Application*. In the Matter of the New Brunswick Power Corporation and Section 103(1) of the Electricity Act Matter No. 375. Prepared by Synapse Energy Economics for the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board Staff.

Hopkins, A. S., K. Takahashi. 2017. *Alternatives to Building a New Mt. Vernon Substation in Washington, DC*. Synapse Energy Economics for the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment.

Hopkins, A. S., S. Fields, T. Vitolo. 2017. *Policies to Cost-Effectively Retain Existing Renewables in New York*. Synapse Energy Economics for the Alliance for Clean Energy New York.

Vitolo, T., A. Hopkins. 2017. *The Mounting Losses at CWLP's Dallman Station: A Study of the Relative Costs of Operating Each of the Four Dallman Units*. Synapse Energy Economics for the Sierra Club.

Hopkins, A. S., A. Horowitz, P. Knight, K. Takahashi, T. Comings, P. Kreycik, N. Veilleux, J. Koo. 2017. *Northeast Regional Assessment of Strategic Electrification*. Synapse Energy Economics and Meister Consultants Group for the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships.

Vermont Public Service Department. 2016. *Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan*.

Vermont Public Service Department. 2016. *Act 199 Study on Manufacturing Competitiveness and Energy*.

Vermont Public Service Department. 2014. *Total Energy Study: Final Report on a Total Energy Approach to Meeting the State's Greenhouse Gas and Renewable Energy Goals*.

Vermont Public Service Department. 2014. *Evaluation of Net Metering in Vermont Conducted Pursuant to Act 99 of 2014*.

Vermont Public Service Department. 2013. *Total Energy Study: Report to the Vermont General Assembly on Progress Toward a Total Energy Approach to Meeting the State's Greenhouse Gas and Renewable Energy Goals*.

Vermont Public Service Department. 2013. *Evaluation of Net Metering in Vermont Conducted Pursuant to Act 125 of 2012*.

U.S. Department of Energy. 2011. *Report on the First Quadrennial Technology Review*. DOE/S-0001.

## ARTICLES

Dunsky, P., A. Hopkins, K. Vaillancourt, M. Fabbri. 2016. "Achieving an Ultra-Low Carbon Future: Technology and Policy Pathways to Meet Vermont's GHG Goals," *ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings*.

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Greenblatt, J., A. Hopkins, V. Letchert, M. Blasnik. 2012. "Energy Use of U.S. Residential Refrigerators and Freezers: Function Derivation Based on Household and Climate Characteristics," *Energy Efficiency*, 10.1007/s12053-012-9158-6.

Hopkins, A., L. Gu, A. Lekov, J. Lutz, G. Rosenquist. 2011. "Simulating a Nationally Representative Housing Sample Using EnergyPlus," Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Report, LBNL-4420E.

Lutz, J.D., A. Hopkins, V. Letschert, V.H. Franco, A. Sturges. 2011. "Using National Survey Data to Estimate Lifetimes of Residential Appliances," *HVAC&R Research*.

Alvarez, R.M., A. Hopkins, B. Sinclair. 2010. "Mobilizing Pasadena Democrats: Measuring the Effects of Partisan Campaign Contacts," *The Journal of Politics* 72, 31.

Nielsen, A.E.B., A. Hopkins, H. Mabuchi. 2009. "Quantum Filter Reduction for Measurement-Feedback Control Via Unsupervised Manifold Learning," *New Journal of Physics* 11, 105043.

Hopkins, A., B. Lev, H. Mabuchi. 2004. "Proposed Magnetoelectrostatic Ring Trap for Neutral Atoms," *Physical Review A* 70, 053616.

Hopkins, A., K. Jacobs, S. Habib, K. Schwab. 2003. "Feedback Cooling of a Nanomechanical Resonator," *Physical Review B* 68, 235328.

## TESTIMONY

**Washington DC Public Service Commission (FC 1142):** Provided expert testimony regarding the merits of the proposed merger of Washington Gas and AltaGas, Ltd. with respect to the impact on environmental quality, with particular emphasis on the impact of utility management and its approach to climate change on the ability of the District to achieve its climate change mitigation goals. On behalf of the District of Columbia Government.

**Régie de l'énergie du Québec (R-3986-2016):** Provided an expert report and testimony regarding best practices in utility demand response programs, in the context of Hydro Québec Distribution's ten-year Supply Plan. On behalf of the Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec (RNCREQ).

**Vermont Public Service Board (Dockets No. 8586 and 8685):** Addressed the need for a proposed solar PV generator and its associated contract under PURPA rates, its economic impact on the state, and its consistency with the Vermont Electric Plan. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, July 2016.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 8684):** Proposed avoided energy and capacity cost rates for use in Rule 4.100, Vermont's implementation of PURPA. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, October 2015 and May 2016.

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**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 8600):** Addressed the need for a proposed solar PV generator, its economic impact on the state, and its consistency with the Vermont Electric Plan. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, March 2016.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 8525):** Introduced a memorandum of understanding between the DPS and Green Mountain Power regarding a proposed rate design, with particular focus on new critical peak price rates to be available and marketed. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, November 2015.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 7970):** Addressed whether increases in the expected cost of a gas pipeline expansion project were sufficient to warrant reopening the underlying proceeding, particularly with respect to the need for the project, the economic impact on the state, and consistency with the general good of the state and the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, May 2015.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 8311):** Addressed how statutory criteria for the use of electric energy efficiency funds for electrification measures (such as heat pumps) might be met. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, January 2015.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 7862):** Presented the Department's positions regarding whether Entergy Vermont Yankee should be granted a continued certificate of public good, with particular focus on the need for the plant, the economic benefit of continued operation, consistency with the Vermont Electric Plan, and whether continued operation by Entergy was in the general good of the state. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, October 2012 and April 2013.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 7833):** Addressed the need for a proposed biomass electric generator and its consistency with the Vermont Electric Plan. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, October and November 2012; February and September 2013.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 7770):** Addressed a number of topics related to the merger of Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service, most particularly the disposition of a windfall repayment due to ratepayers. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, January and March 2012.

**Vermont Public Service Board (Docket No. 7815):** Addressed consistency of a proposed long-term PPA with the Vermont Electric Plan and the utility's integrated resource plan. On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service, January 2012.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

Hopkins, A. 2017 "Utility Performance Regulation" at the Western States Regional Meeting of the National Association of State Energy Officials, April 2017.

Panelist on "A Regulatory Perspective of Grid Transformation" at the IEEE Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference, September 2016.

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Panelist on the “Comprehensive Energy Plan Update” at the Renewable Energy Vermont Conference, October 2015.

Hopkins, A. 2015. “Vermont’s Total Energy Study.” Presentation at the National Association of State Energy Officials Energy Policy Outlook Conference, February 2015.

Panelist on “The Role of Energy Efficiency in Mitigating Winter Peak Issues” at the Association of Energy Services Professionals (Northeast Chapter) & Northeast Energy Efficiency Council, November 2014.

Hopkins, A. 2014. “Total Energy Study.” Presentation at the Renewable Energy Vermont Conference, October 2014.

Panelist on “State Energy & Economic Policy Impacts on Industry Transformation” at the Power Industry Transformation Summit, April 2014.

Hopkins, A. 2008. “Mobilizing Pasadena Democrats: Measuring the Effects of Partisan Campaign Contacts.” Presentation at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2008.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Certified Public Manager, 2014

AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship, 2010 – 2011

Dean’s Award for Community Service, 2009

Delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention

NSF Graduate Research Fellow, 2002 – 2005

Los Alamos National Laboratory Student Distinguished Performance Award, 2002

Two-time first-team Academic All American, 2000 and 2001

Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, 1999 – 2001

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Board Member, National Association of State Energy Officials, 2015-16

Industrial Advisory Board for ARPA-E-funded project “Packetized Energy Management,” 2016

Burlington, VT Public Works Commission: Member 2012 –2014, Chair 2015

*Resume dated March 2018*