

VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 2013
CAPITOL PLAZA, MONTPELIER

A special meeting of the Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) was held on October 11, 2013, at the Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, Vermont. Deena Frankel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The agenda of this workshop meeting was to learn more about the Maine non-transmission alternatives (NTAs) associated with the Maine Power Reliability Project (MPRP), and other NTA related developments in New England. The presentations are posted on the VSPC website VSPC meetings page, 10/11/13 section.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants introduced themselves. A list of attendees appears on page 3 of these minutes.

Dave Conroy, Manager of Planning for Central Maine Power (CMP), presented slides giving background on the MPRP NTA development process. Jason Rauch, Utility Analyst at Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), presented slides on Maine's NTA process and policy. Eric Johnson and Jonathan Black from ISO-New England (ISO-NE), presented slides giving an update on the distributed generation forecasting working group (DGFWG) and Heather Hunt from New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) presented slides on distributed generation across New England.

MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROJECT

Mr. Conroy gave an overview of the NTA work for the MPRP, originally covering large areas of Maine, to undergo needs assessments and NTA analyses. Two NTA pilot projects came out of the needs assessment. CMP partnered with GridSolar to perform the two NTA pilot projects that were developed to address reliability needs in the mid coast area (Boothbay Pilot) and the Portland area (South Portland Loop). MPRP's stipulation also included a smart grid platform proposal to be operated by GridSolar. After determining the needs of the existing system at a projected future load level, CMP determined the amount of NTA effective capacity that would be needed to avoid all transmission improvements, and then compared the longevity of the transmission solution to the NTA.

The preliminary results showed that the NTA-only solutions did not appear feasible with the exception of the South Portland Loop, where studies showed energy efficiency (EE), demand response (DR) and new generation could defer transmission upgrades. The Boothbay Pilot was a mix of hybrid solutions, like new generation and voltage support investments, that were cost effective and could mitigate \$18M in transmission line upgrades. Other hybrid solutions might include installing capacitors.

CMP will present results from consultant RLC's current Midcoast area study to the Maine PUC later this year and begin a new needs assessment to receive an order.

MAINE NTA PROCESSES AND POLICY

Mr. Rauch explained how the Maine NTA policy has developed over the past few years. In May 2010, MPUC allowed CMP to enter into contract with GridSolar to develop Smart Grid/NTA Pilot in the Boothbay Region and South Portland. These pilot projects coincided with the Smart Grid Policy Act established a need for a smart grid coordinator. NRRI suggested NTA coordination be a role fulfilled by a smart grid coordinator. The pilot would provide enough information for the commission to decide if the SG coordinator was needed. GridSolar needed two requests for proposal (RFP) processes to execute contracts with bidders. Currently, MPUC is reviewing GridSolar's recommendation of NTA resources from the second RFP. Both Pilots must undergo measurement and verification testing, periodic audits and reporting requirements so that the MPUC can understand how well the pilot is operating.

Going forward, Mr. Rauch reported on the Maine Omnibus Energy Bill that seeks to reduce energy costs, increase energy efficiency, promote electric system reliability and protect the environment. MPUC has been tasked by legislation with advocating regional cost-sharing for NTA solutions. Maine will conduct a rulemaking in the next few months.

ISO-NE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION FORECAST WORKING GROUP

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Black of ISO-NE gave an update on the distributed generation forecast working group that met on September 30 to discuss distributed generation (DG) programs in New England and the complexities of forecasting and integration challenges. Mr. Johnson listed some challenges including the lack of forecasting methodology, diverse and non-aggregated distributed generation, market dynamic uncertainties, technological developments that may impact DG development, and DG's impact on grid reliability. To address these challenges, ISO-NE is participating in several groups and studies including a National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) study to examine possible operational and reliability concerns associated with large amounts of DG; the technical review committee for NREL's Eastern Renewable Generation Integration Study; and a collaboration with IBM on a DOE-funded project to improve the state of the science of solar forecasting.

THE DGFWDG will meet next on November 22, Milford, MA. ISO-NE is asking the states and DUs to share information about interconnections and distribution queues and to have a discussion about the interconnection standards.

NESCOE: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Ms. Hunt reported on NESCOE's focus on distributed generation and its experience with incorporation of energy efficiency into the ISO-NE load forecast. Data shows as of March 2013, 223.4 MW of solar PV has been installed, with an anticipated 250 MW more to be installed over the next two years. NESCOE wants to partner with ISO-NE and the DGFWDG to account for capacity from DG resources in resource adequacy zones, the CELT report, FCM purchase and transmission studies in order to achieve for consumer the full range of benefits from investment in DG.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

PUBLIC SECTOR

Hervey Scudder, Public Member
Jim Wilbur, Public Member

TRANSMISSION UTILITY (VELCO)

Frank Etori, VELCO

DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES PROVIDING TRANSMISSION (GMP, VEC)

Kim Jones, GMP
Steve Litkovitz, GMP
Doug Smith, GMP

LARGE TRANSMISSION-DEPENDENT DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES (BED, WEC)

Bill Powell, WEC

TRANSMISSION DEPENDENT DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES (MUNICIPALS)

David Mullet, VPPSA
Melissa Bailey, VPPSA

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Walter Poor, DPS
Al St. Peter, DPS

STAFF

Deena Frankel, VELCO
Shana Duval, VELCO

GUESTS

Dave Conroy, CMP
Jason Rauch, MPUC
Heather Hunt, NESCOE
Allison Smith, NESCOE
Eric Johnson, ISO-NE
Jon Black, ISO-NE
Tom Knauer, PSB
Mary Jo Krolewski, PSB
Sandy Levine, CLF
Johanna Miller, VNRC
Carole Hakstian, VEIC
Gillian Eaton, VEIC
Michael Wickenden, VEIC
Paul Renaud, VELCO
Tom Dunn, VELCO
Diana Lee, VELCO
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO
Matt Levin, VCE
Steve Hoskins, TDX Power
Michael Henry, Environment Northeast

ABBREVIATIONS:

BED—Burlington Electric Department
CMP—Central Maine Power
GMP—Green Mountain Power
MPUC—Maine Public Utilities Commission
NESCOE—New England States Committee on
Electricity
PSB—Vermont Public Service Board
PSD—Vermont Public Service Department
VCE—Vermonters for a Clean Environment
VEC—Vermont Electric Cooperative
VEIC—Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
VELCO—Vermont Electric Power Company
VNRC—Vermont Natural Resources Council