

## VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

---

### MEMO

**TO:** Vermont System Planning Committee

**FROM:** Deena Frankel

**RE:** VSPC review process for the VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan

**DATE:** December 2, 2008

In June, the VSPC adopted a schedule for its review of the VELCO Long-Range Transmission Plan (LRTP) as required by the Docket 7081. That schedule assumed distribution of the plan's first draft in late November, completion of the 60-day VSPC review in December and January, public input on the second draft in March and April, and final revisions in May and June to meet the July 1, 2009, deadline for filing with the Public Service Board. It has become clear in the past month that this schedule is unrealistic for two reasons.

The driving reason is that the 2009 LRTP update has proven to be a much different and larger task than anticipated due to numerous changes from the 2006 version. Among those differences are: changes in applicable planning criteria imposed by NERC and ISO-NE; the change from the 10-year horizon required for the 2006 plan to the 20-year horizon required for the 2009 and all subsequent plans as a result of Docket 7081; and other changes dictated by the Docket 7081 MOU, such as the requirement that initial NTA screenings for each reliability deficiency be included in the plan.

In addition to these challenges, the original schedule would have required that a good portion of the very significant tasks faced by the VSPC during its 60-day review period occur during the December holiday season.

As we began preparation for the December VSPC meeting, it's clear how central the LRTP review is to the effectiveness of the Docket 7081 process. The plan is the prelude and foundation on which the rest of the process depends. Therefore, it is doubly important that these next steps be taken with collaborative deliberation.

For these reasons, I propose the following schedule change for VSPC review of the VELCO LRTP:

<i>Revised Timeline</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Step</b>
12/2/08	VELCO posts PowerPoint presentation of plan findings VSPC website.
12/10/08	Quarterly meeting: VELCO presents and answers questions VSPC makes preliminary identification of areas of disagreement
12/22/08	VELCO posts full VSPC review draft of plan including NTA screenings on public website.
12/22/08 – 2/20/09	VSPC participants submit comments on review draft; Staff posts comments on VSPC website.
1/21/09	VSPC holds special meeting to further discuss disputes and comments.
2/11/09	VSPC holds additional special meeting to take any necessary votes on remaining disputes and to compile comments.
2/20/09	Last day to submit written comments for inclusion in plan.
3/20/09	VSPC comments incorporated into draft Public draft LRTP posted to VSPC website and distributed to audiences as required by 30 V.S.A. § 218c.
3/20/09 – 5/22/09	Public outreach/input process.
5/25/09 – 6/30/09	VELCO incorporates public input to create final LRTP.
7/1/09	VELCO files final LRTP with Public Service Board.

Consistent with this schedule, materials for the December 10, 2008, VSPC meeting have been posted today to the VSPC website. They include the VELCO presentation on the plan, as well as a presentation on the requirements in Docket 7081 for VSPC review of the plan. It may be useful in reviewing the schedule above to highlight the specific actions the VSPC and the distribution utilities will need to take during the VSPC review. They include:

<i>Input to be compiled during 60-day VSPC input process</i>	
<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
System level determination: i.e., bulk, predominantly bulk, subsystem, predominantly subsystem	VELCO recommends in plan VSPC votes if utilities disagree
Designation of affected utilities and lead distribution utility	VELCO recommends in plan VSPC votes if utilities disagree
Compilation of comments from VSPC participants (no consensus implied or required)	VSPC
Confirm or dispute description of subsystem reliability deficiencies in LRP.	Distribution utilities
Provide any preliminary NTA analyses (screenings) on subsystem issues that are ready in time for the plan.	Distribution utilities