



# Vermont System Planning Committee

*Ensuring full, fair and timely consideration of non-transmission alternatives to address Vermont electric system reliability challenges.*



**QUARTERLY MEETING  
DECEMBER 9, 2009  
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
DOUBLETREE  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT**

**TIMING OF PROJECT STEPS FOR ALL IDENTIFIED RELIABILITY PROJECTS**

	Year Needed *	Load MW Needed	Completed	CALENDAR QUARTERS											
				2010				2011				2012			
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Priority 1 : St. Johnsbury	pre 2009	400	T, N, SCI												
Priority 2 : Middlebury	pre 2009	700	T, N, SCI												
Priority 3 : St. Albans	pre 2009	850	T, N	SCI											
Priority 3 : Georgia substation	pre 2009	800	T	SCI											
Priority 3 : Georgia - St. Albans	pre 2018	1275							T		N	SCI			
Priority 4 : South Rutland substation / transformer	pre 2009	1000			T		N	SCI							
Priority 5 : Blissville - transformer	pre 2009	800				T			N	SCI					
Priority 6 : Hartford - transformer	pre 2009	800					T		N	SCI					
Priority 7 : Ascutney substation	pre 2009	750	T	SCI											
Priority 8 : Newport capacitor	pre 2009	1000	T	SCI											
Priority 8 : Queen City capacitor	pre 2009	<1170	T	SCI											
Priority 8 : West Rutland capacitor	pre 2009	<1170	T	SCI											
Priority 8 : Blissville capacitor	pre 2009	800	T	SCI											
Priority 9 : Ascutney capacitor	pre 2009	<1170	T	SCI											
Priority 10 : Bennington substation	pre 2009	500	T	SCI											
Priority 11 : reactors @ transmission voltage	pre 2009	400		T	SCI										
Priority 12 : Coolidge - Ascutney K-31 line	pre 2009	<1120	T	SCI											
Priority 13 : VY - Vernon Road Tap K-186 line	pre 2009	<1120	T	SCI											
Priority 14 : Vernon	2010	1185			T	SCI									
Priority 15 : Ascutney - Ascutney Tap K-149 line	2013	1210	T			N	SCI								
Priority 16 : Coolidge - Cold River K-32 line	2013	1210	T			N	SCI								
Priority 17 : Ascutney - transformer	2013	1210						T		N	SCI				
Priority 18 : Coolidge - transformer	2016	1245	TBD												
Priority 19 : Barre	2018	1275	TBD												
Priority 20 : Chelsea	2018	1275	TBD												
Priority 21 : Plattsburgh - Essex	Note **	n/a	TBD												

Note \* : Based upon 2008 load forecast

Note \*\*: Timing may be 2016 or earlier depending upon other possible scenarios

Key: (color denotes activity in progress)

T = Transmission analysis

N = Non-transmission alternative analysis

S = Solution selection

C = Cost allocation

I = Implementation strategy

TBD = To Be Determined after the completion of the 2012 Long Range Transmission Plan

n/a= Not applicable

2012 Long Range Transmission Plan published



Priority number	Name	Project Type	Affected DUs	Lead DU
1	St. Johnsbury	Substation	CVPS, LED for station. CVPS, LED & VEC for capacitor banks	LED
2	Middlebury	Substation	CVPS	CVPS
3A	St. Albans	Substation	CVPS, VEC	CVPS
3B	Georgia	Substation	All Vermont DUs	CVPS
3C	Georgia–St. Albans	Transmission	All Vermont DUs	VEC
4	South Rutland	Substation	CVPS	CVPS
5	Blissville	Substation	CVPS	CVPS
6	Hartford	Substation	CVPS, GMP	CVPS
7	Ascutney	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID	CVPS
8A	Newport	Substation	All Vermont DUs	VEC
8B	Queen City	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NGRID	GMP
8C	West Rutland	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NGRID	CVPS
8D	Ascutney	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID	CVPS
8E	Coolidge Reactor	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID, NY	CVPS
9	Coolidge–Ascutney	Transmission	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID	GMP
10	Yankee–Vernon Rd	Transmission	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID	CVPS
11	Vernon	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID	CVPS
12	Ascutney–Ascutney Tap	Transmission	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID	CVPS
13	Coolidge–Cold River	Transmission	All Vermont DUs, NY	CVPS
14	Bennington	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NGRID	CVPS
15	Ascutney Transformer	Substation	CVPS, Ludlow for station	CVPS
16	Coolidge Transformer	Substation	All Vermont DUs, NU, NGRID, NY	CVPS
17	Barre	Substation	GMP, WEC	GMP
18	Chelsea	Substation	CVPS, WEC	CVPS
19	Plattsburgh–Essex	Transmission	All Vermont DUs	GMP

## Affected Utility & Lead Utility Determination

*from Table 4-5 of 2009 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan*

# Evaluation – review process



- **At 12/9/09 VSPC meeting:**
  - Review proposed edits
  - Identify any additional proposed edits
  - Review recommendations
- **Next steps:**
  - Proposed final draft to VSPC/Docket 7081 Parties by December 11
  - Final review and comment (if any) by December 15
  - Final to VSPC/Docket 7081 Parties by December 21
  - Filed with PSB December 23

# Proposed edits – CEII, Page 10



CEII emerged as a significant issue only recently, during consideration of the 2009 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Adoption of a VSPC-specific non-disclosure agreement and related processes is a critical step for resolving the uncertainties surrounding CEII. While the VSPC non-disclosure agreement does not resolve the issues of transparency in public outreach , it is a necessary step to facilitate the ongoing VSPC process.

*Alternative text for above paragraph proposed by Steve Litkovitz: CEII emerged as a significant issue only recently, during consideration of the 2009 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Adoption of a VSPC-specific non-disclosure agreement and related processes may assist in resolving the uncertainties surrounding CEII. The VSPC non-disclosure agreement will not, in itself, resolve the issues of transparency in public outreach.*

# Recommendations 1-3



- 1. *Continuing the process and further evaluation:*** The VSPC process has had preliminary positive results, but has not yet fully realized its objective. The process has just begun its first full cycle, outlined in the MOU, that begins with the three-year update of the Long-Range Plan. It will be timely to reevaluate the effectiveness of the process at the end of this cycle. The VSPC should revisit its self-assessment at the end of the 2009-2012 cycle.
- 2. *VSPC authority to make recommended changes:*** The process improvements proposed in this section are within the control of the VSPC, by changes in its processes, Procedural Rules or subcommittee charters. If changes in the Procedural Rules are needed, the amended rules should be filed with the PSB.
- 3. *Leaving Docket 7081 open:*** The Board should leave Docket 7081 open to provide a continuing mechanism to resolve disputes related to CEII that arise in the VSPC context and to address future recommendations for process changes that may emerge from further assessment conducted by the VSPC.

# Recommendations 4-5



- 4. *Public engagement:*** Increase public representation in the VSPC by ensuring that all seats are filled by people who are willing to commit to regular attendance and full participation. Pursue this goal by implementing the strategies developed by the Public Participation Subcommittee:
- Identify people who are likely to be interested in the process from lists of people who attended public outreach meetings and people who have become active in transmission issues through recent VELCO projects.
  - Create a means for participation that does not necessarily involve or initially involve having to attend full VPSC meetings. For example, potential participants could be invited to Public Participation Subcommittee meetings.
  - Increase visibility of the process through increased public information.
- 5. *CEII:*** The VSPC should quickly adopt a non-disclosure agreement covering CEII and other confidential information. The VSPC, VELCO and the distribution utilities should continue educate themselves on CEII requirements and to develop clear-cut policies and procedures. The utilities should expeditiously expand the discussion to include the Public Service Board so more clarity can be gained on how the CEII issues will play out in Section 248 and other Board proceedings.

# Recommendation 6



**6. Making the process more efficient:** The VSPC should implement the following recommendations regarding process efficiency.

- Engage a consultant skilled in process improvement to help the group achieve the greatest possible efficiency. \*
- Review subcommittee charters, VSPC Rules of Procedure and process adopted by the VSPC. Where process complexity can be reduced, based on the experience of the past two years, streamline processes.
- Use teleconferencing (or teleconferencing with web conferencing) for more meetings. The VSPC's advanced teleconferencing equipment was seen as an improvement, but remains an imperfect solution. \*\* Meetings seem to work better if they are either all by phone or all in person, but the hybrid is always difficult to follow for those on the phone.
- Consider reducing meeting frequency to less than quarterly – three times a year or semi-annual, depending upon the demands of the agenda.
- Continue to strengthen the subcommittee process.\*\*\* Ensure the work gets done in the subcommittees and recommendations for action are fully developed before coming to the full group.
- Complete the procedures manual (started prior to the long-range plan process) that helps translate the complexity of the MOU into understandable, step-by-step form.
- Focus on the core purposes of the VSPC and reduce the time spent on larger policy issues.

\* *Richard Suitor states he does not agree with this recommendation and believes that sufficient expertise exists within the VSPC to carry out this review.*

\*\* *Richard Suitor suggests a focus on getting people to speak up. “We need someone with a (virtual) stick to rap knuckles when appropriate or to get soft-voiced people near a pickup ... we need attention to discipline in the room for a while until people learn proper habits ... VSPC has improved a lot, but more technically than in behavior.”*

\*\*\* *Richard Suitor observes there has been much progress but more work is needed to define what a good job is.*

# Recommendations 7-10



7. ***NTA screening process:*** Convene a review of the NTA screening tool based on the input gathered in the current evaluation. The product of the review would be a recommendation to the VSPC to amend the screening tool and/or the NTA screening process, to maintain the tool and address issues of interpretation, or to take no action. \*
  8. ***Broad vs narrow mission:*** Continue discussion within the VSPC regarding the appropriate breadth of the committee's focus. The product of such discussion would be guidance on the setting of agendas for future meetings. If consensus cannot be reached, consider seeking Board guidance.
  9. ***Charter changes:*** Approve the charter changes recommended by the Public Participation and Generation Subcommittees.
  10. ***Public member cost allocation methodology:*** Request that the Public Service Board modify the cost allocation methodology for public member expenses to be consistent with the allocation of other VSPC operating expenses.
- \* *Richard Suitor proposes that the tool should include explanations that can be understood by the educated non-expert. Confidence in the screening tool is essential to confidence in the ultimate conclusion of the screening.*

# Annual Report to PSB due 1/15/09



89. Annually by January 15, commencing in 2008, the VSPC shall provide a report to the Board and Department consisting of at least the following:

- a. A report on each Reliability Deficiency identified to date in the Plan or through the process described in Steps through 6, above, including:
  - i. The status of NTA Analysis for the Reliability Deficiency.
  - ii. The status of decision-making on the selection of alternative(s) to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - iii. The status of decision-making on the allocation of costs of the alternative to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - iv. The strategy chosen for implementing the alternative selected to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - v. The status of implementation of the alternative(s) to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - vi. All documentation pursuant to paragraph 86, above, relating to advisory votes within the preceding calendar year.
- b. A statement of the dates and locations of all VSPC meetings held during the preceding year.

# Next meeting



- **March 10**, Vermont Technical College, Randolph, 9:30-4:00
- **June 9**, Capital Plaza, Montpelier, 9:30-4:00