



Vermont System Planning Committee

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



**QUARTERLY MEETING
MARCH 10, 2010
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
RANDOLPH, VERMONT**

Recommended Subcommittee Charter Changes



- **Generation Subcommittee** recommended its charter be more sharply focused on reviewing generation-related assumptions in specific NTA analyses for reasonableness in light of then-available information.
 - They observed that the requirement in the existing charter for development of standardized generation assumptions in advance of NTA analyses may be problematic. Confidentiality concerns may also limit group members' ability to provide actual cost assumptions, but would likely not bar the ability to comment on specific evaluations.
- **Public Participation Subcommittee** recommended that the final paragraph of its charter be revised as follows:
 - ~~Providing oversight of~~ *Facilitating communications (website, media, etc.) regarding the work of the VSPC to ensure clarity, comprehensiveness and transparency of the VSPC process to two distinct target audiences: committee and subcommittee members (internal communications); and the public (external communications).*

2009 Long Range Plan Activities



STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

Timing of Project Steps

	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 3A : St. Albans	pre 2009	850	T, N, SCI												
Priority 3B : Georgia substation	pre 2009	800		T		SCI									
Priority 3C : Georgia - St. Albans	pre 2018	1275	TBD												
Priority 4 : South Rutland substation / transformer	pre 2009	1000		T		N		SCI							
Priority 5 : Blissville - transformer	pre 2009	800	TBD**												
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	<1120		T		SCI									
Priority 8 : West Rutland capacitor	pre 2009	<1120		T		SCI									
Priority 8 : Blissville capacitor	pre 2009	<1170		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	n/a					T		SCI						
Priority 13 : VY - Vernon Road Tap K-186 line	pre 2009	n/a		T		SCI									
Priority 14 : Vernon	2010	1185	TBD												
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												

Project Activities



- **Complete transmission analysis – select preferred transmission solution**
- **Complete non-transmission analysis**
 - **Form study groups**
 - ✦ Coordinate full NTA analyses where needed
 - ✦ Keep affected utilities and VSPC informed of progress
 - **Perform analyses**
- **Select preferred solution**
- **Determine cost allocation**
- **Finalize implementation plan**

Specific Project Activity Plan



- **St Johnsbury (1)**
 - All activities were completed
- **Middlebury (2)**
 - All activities were completed
- **St Albans transformer (3A) or Georgia transformer (3A)**
 - Finalize documentation of NTA analysis
 - Select solution
- **Georgia substation (3B)**
 - Finalize transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out
- **Georgia-St Albans (3C)**
 - Re-evaluate the need as part of 2012 long range plan analysis

Specific Project Activity Plan



- **South Rutland transformer (4)**
 - Perform transmission analysis and NTA analysis
 - Select solution
- **Blissville transformer (5)**
 - Re-evaluate the need as part of 2012 long range plan analysis
- **Hartford transformer (6)**
 - Perform transmission analysis and NTA analysis
 - Select solution
- **Ascutney substation (7)**
 - Finalize transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out

Specific Project Activity Plan



- **Newport capacitor bank (8)**
 - Perform transmission analysis and coordinate with VEC reliability analysis
 - Redo screening analysis in light of VEC load supply concerns
 - Select solution
- **Queen City, West Rutland and Blissville capacitor banks (8)**
 - Finalize transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out
- **Ascutney capacitor banks (9)**
 - Finalize transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out
- **Bennington substation (10)**
 - Finalize transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out

Specific Project Activity Plan



- **Reactors (11)**
 - Finalize transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out
- **Coolidge-Ascutney (12), Coolidge-Cold River (16), Ascutney-Ascutney Tap(15)**
 - Coordinate with regional transmission analysis
 - NTA solution was screened out for item 12
 - Additional NTA analysis planned for items 15 and 16 if not removed
- **Vernon-Chestnut Hill (13), Vernon 345/115 kV autotransformer (14)**
 - Will likely be addressed by upgrades in New Hampshire
 - NTA solution was screened out
- **Ascutney transformer (17)**
 - Perform transmission analysis and NTA analysis
 - Select solution

Specific Project Activity Plan



- **Coolidge 345/115 kV autotransformer (18)**
 - Coordinate with regional transmission analysis
 - Re-evaluate the need as part of 2012 long range plan analysis
- **Barre transformer (19), Chelsea transformer (20)**
 - Re-evaluate the need as part of 2012 long range plan analysis
- **Plattsburgh-Essex 230 kV line (21)**
 - Coordinate with regional transmission analysis
 - Re-evaluate the need as part of 2012 long range plan analysis

Regional Transmission Planning



**AND IMPLICATIONS FOR
IN-STATE PLANNING**

ISO-NE and TO Responsibilities Per Regional Agreements

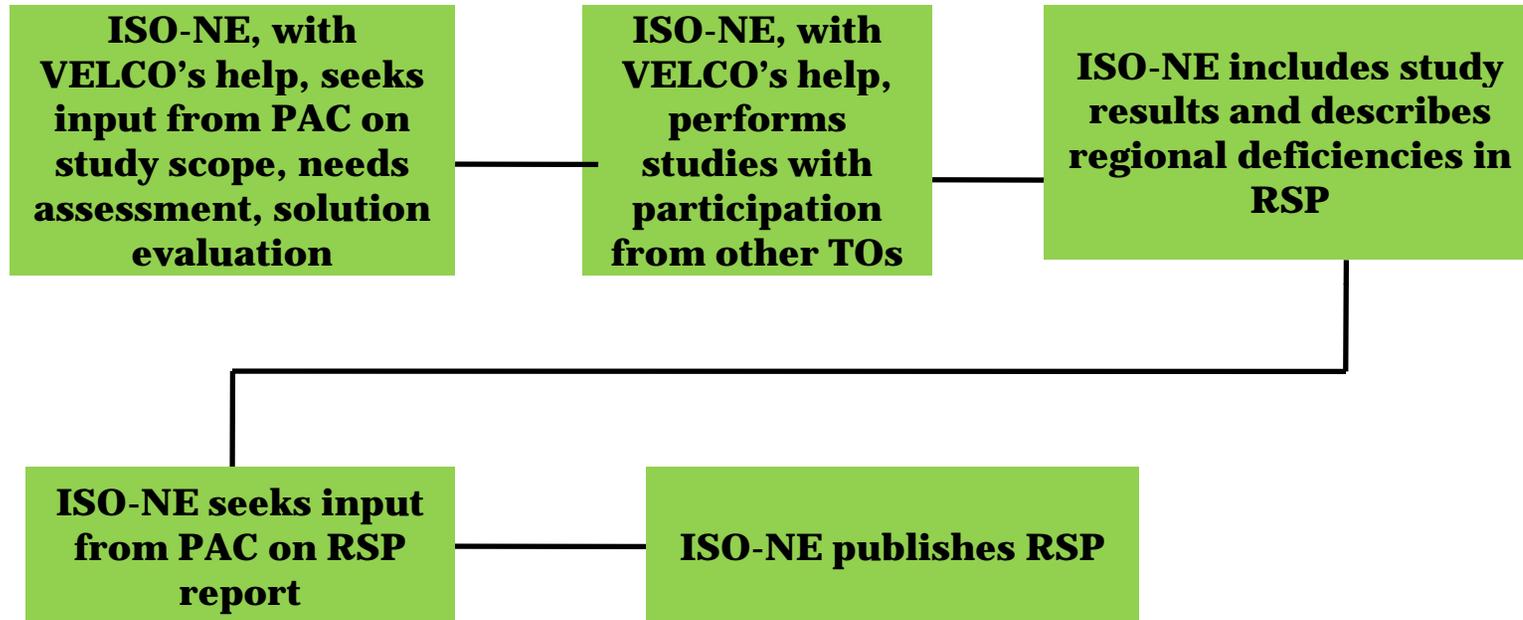


- **The transmission operating agreement (TOA) defines the responsibilities of the RTO and the PTOs**
 - The functions to be performed by the ISO and Order 2000 require that the ISO have the requisite operational authority over the PTOs' transmission facilities
 - **The ISO will be responsible for system planning** within the ISO region subject to certain rights and obligations of the PTOs
 - The PTOs will, among other things, continue to own, physically operate, and maintain their Transmission Facilities and Local Control Centers
- **Attachment K of the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) describes the regional planning process**
 - **The ISO shall conduct the regional system planning process** for the PTF in coordination with the transmission-owning entities in, or other entities interconnected to, the New England Transmission System and neighboring systems
 - The PTOs are responsible for the Local System Planning ("LSP") process for the Non-PTF in the New England Transmission System.

PTF: a Pool Transmission Facility is essentially a networked facility (115 kV and above), with some grandfathered 69 kV facilities

Transmission facility: all facilities 69 kV and above, including radials, except as explicitly excluded in the TOA

ISO-NE Planning Process



PAC = Planning Advisory Committee (similar to VSPC but on a regional scale)

RSP = Regional System Plan. Used to be RTEP (Regional Transmission Expansion Plan)

Status of Vermont 10-yr Study in ISO-NE Planning Process



- **ISO-NE will conduct a regional study (VT, NH, MA)**
- **Addendum to the Vermont needs report to document regional concerns**
- **Update the Vermont solutions analysis**
 - Consider the outage of two regional resources
 - ✦ Any two of VY, AES Granite Ridge, Northfield 1 and 2
 - Consider restricting PV-20 flows to 0 MW due to concerns in NY
 - Determine whether regional solutions can address concerns in each state
 - Expected to be completed end of this year
- **Consider the potential impacts of VY retiring**
 - An additional resource will be dispatched off (Merrimack 2)

Implications for Long Range Plan



- **Regional solution may have elements in VT**
- **Proposed projects that may be removed**
 - Coolidge-Cold River 115 kV line
 - Coolidge-Ascutney 115 kV line
 - Ascutney-Ascutney Tap 115 kV line
 - Coolidge 345/115 kV autotransformer
- **Need to wait for conclusion of regional study before proceeding with above projects**

Next steps on recommendations from VSPC/Docket 7081 evaluation



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 as efficient as possible: The VSPC should implement the following recommendations regarding process efficiency.

- a. Identify and engage appropriate resources skilled in process improvement to help the group achieve the greatest possible efficiency.
- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Consider reducing meeting frequency to less than quarterly – three times a year or semi-annual, depending upon the demands of the agenda.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Focus on the core purposes of the VSPC and reduce the time spent on larger policy issues.

Recommendations 7-10



- 7. *NTA screening tool:*** Convene a review of the NTA screening tool based on the input gathered in the current evaluation. The products of the review would be: (1) 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; and (2) a plain language explanation of how the levels in the screening tool were set and how the tool was developed.
- 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.

Next meeting



- **June 9**, Capital Plaza, Montpelier, 9:30-4:00
- **September 8**, Holiday Inn, Rutland, 9:30-4:00