

## VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES JUNE 15, 2011, 9:30 AM VERMONT COLLEGE, MONTPELIER

A special meeting of the Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) was held on June 15, 2011, at Noble Hall, Vermont College, Montpelier, Vermont. Deena Frankel called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The order of business for this special meeting was a presentation by and discussion with representatives of ISO New England (ISO-NE), the regional transmission organization serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The presentation is [posted](#) on the VSPC website VSPC meetings page, 6/15/11 section.

#### **Introductions**

Participants introduced themselves. A list of attendees appears on page 2-3 of these minutes.

Mr. Rourke presented slides 1-14, background on ISO-NE and historical context for reliability standards. Mr. Oberlin presented slides 15-48, transmission planning standards, comparison of Northwest Reliability Project standards with the current assessment, and reliability costs. Ms. Perben presented slides 64-66, summarizing the VT-NH NTA analysis. Mr. Simonelli presented slides 73-76, concerning the operational assessment for the summer of 2012 in the event of Vermont Yankee retirement.

#### **Group questions and discussion**

The following notes reflect discussion and exchanges that occurred during the slide presentation.

Ms. Frankel posed a question that had been submitted by Green Mountain Power in writing concerning whether ISO-NE's increased role in system planning meant that it expected to provide a more active role in testimony in state siting cases in the future, and, if so, whether it would be addressing NTAs in those cases. Mr. Rourke responded that ISO-NE's role is to provide a transmission backstop, not to address NTAs. They are not at every siting proceeding, but do get involved in all 345 kV siting to address the needs and to explain why they have selected a given solution.

Mr. Nolan asked what ISO-NE assumed regarding the rating of peaking units. Mr. Oberlin responded that ISO-NE assumes 80 percent will start. Some data from Vermont's units indicates that some of these resources will fail to operate when called upon.

Ms. Levine questioned ISO-NE's application of the N-1-1 standard in light of increased availability of demand response and the future retirement of oil and coal-fired resources. Mr. Rourke responded that ISO-NE does not assume in its planning that all the oil and coal plants in the region will be retired. To do so would require an assumption of 12 generators out and would not leave enough power to serve New England load.

Discussion regarding the assumption of zero flow over the PV20 (slide 39): ISO-NE recognizes that this assumption is equivalent to ten years of load growth for Vermont and therefore has a high priority to resolve by changing the assumption if possible. PV20 is a standing agenda item for NPCC. ISO-NE will revisit the analysis as soon as there is a solution. However, simply separating the double circuit towers in New York is a necessary but not sufficient action to resolve the issue because other contingencies in New York will continue to prevent assurance of a flow

from NY to VT in certain scenarios. The group discussed the existence of unresolved reliability issues in New York that are contributing to the complexity of solving the PV20 flow problem. ISO-NE and participants discussed the need for a meeting with all parties in the room to resolve the conflicting statements that have been made by different parties at different times in recent months. ISO-NE indicated it will work with VELCO and others to coordinate a joint meeting among ISO-NE, New York ISO, VELCO and NYPA. Hans Mertens offered the assistance of the Department of Public Service as needed to further discussions with New York parties.

Mr. Mertens expressed appreciation for ISO-NE's work on the NTA analysis, observing that the study had revealed useful options for northwest Vermont, but not so much for other areas of the study. He also pointed out that DPS had offered many questions and concerns about the analysis, and asked what was happening with those questions. Mr. Rourke responded that ISO-NE is looking at the list, but that it would take new generation working within a short timeframe to address the identified needs.

Mr. Kirby expressed two concerns with the methodology of the NTA study: that it had only addressed thermal, not voltage issues, and that it included only a DC analysis, not AC. These two limitations reduce the utility of the results. When CVPS does non-transmission alternatives analysis, he observed, it considers the possibility of hybrid solutions to get to the best result. Mr. Janson added that a hybrid approach has been successful in Vermont. ISO-NE responded that they recognize the value of hybrid solutions but have not been able to incorporate this approach as yet.

Mr. Simonelli described ISO-NE's operational assessment for the potential retirement of Vermont Yankee. He stated that ISO-NE needs to be ready in late winter with the necessary operational procedures. While modeling shows the conditions are not optimal, the region can prepare to manage for the summer of 2012 under the scenarios that have been studied. Mr. Kirby asked whether a solution to the PV20 zero-flow assumption would help. ISO-NE responded that it helps but is not a complete solution. System reliability will require a procedure, including load shedding. A working group is currently developing the procedures.

Mr. Mertens asked whether the 25 MW of emergency generators at VY could be useful for system reliability if they were not in use for station service. ISO-NE responded that it could be possible.

Mr. Simonelli reported that the procedures need to be in place to train the operators in April 2012. Certainty about whether the plant will continue to operate or not would be helpful, but may not be available by the April training date and the operators will need to be trained at that point.

Mr. Mertens asked whether the issues with incorrect triggers between Northfield and VY substation have been clarified. ISO-NE is aware of and working on this issue, and acknowledged that, while some issues arise with the retirement of VY, some of the issues on the system that exist today are there with VY present.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Quarterly Meeting to be held on September 14, 2011, at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, at 9:30 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Burlington Electric Department:

Ken Nolan.

Central Vermont Public Service:

Rip Kirby, Larry Reilly, Morris Silver, Bruce Bentley.

Conservation Law Foundation:

Sandra Levine.

Department of Public Service:

Sean Foley, Hans Mertens, Elizabeth Miller, George Nagle, Allan St. Peter.

ISO-NE:

Alan McBride, Brent Oberlin, Theodore Paradise, Marianne Perben, Stephen Rourke, John Simonelli, Eric Wilkinson.

Public Service Board:

Ann Bishop, Kurt Janson, Ed McNamara, Pam Stonier, James Volz.

VELCO:

Tom Dunn, Chris Dutton, Shana Duval, Frank Etori, Deena Frankel, Jaime Mullin, Karen O'Neill, Kim Pritchard, Hantz Pr sum , Cleveland Richards, Mark Sciarrotta.

Vermont Electric Cooperative:

Harry Abendroth.

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation:

Michael Wickenden.