

VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Technical Coordinating Subcommittee

August 14, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

Department of Public Service, Montpelier

Attendees: Dave Lamont (DPS), Jenny Cole (Public Representative), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Bruce Bentley (CVPS), Doug Smith (GMP), Ken Nolan (BED), Deena Frankel (VELCO).

VSPC role in non-reliability (economic) transmission policy discussion

Question: to what extent and in what way should VSPC be involved in the regional discussion of economic transmission? If the region proceeds with consideration of one or more economic transmission projects, is the VSPC a forum for discussion and potential participation in the regional discussion? Do members of the VSPC want to be informed of the regional discussion? Should this question be on the VSPC meeting agenda?

Discussion: It is dangerous to use the VSPC to take positions on issues where the utilities have their own individual interests, outside of the mission assigned to the VSPC. However, the VSPC should be informed/briefed about the issue. The issue of economic transmission is an important component of the overall picture.

Conclusion: Agenda the item for the VSPC meeting to determine the committee's interest in a briefing at a future VSPC meeting.

How should the VSPC approach briefing of the PSB to keep the Board informed of VSPC progress and activities?

Question: This item was referred from the June VSPC meeting to the TCSC. Should the VSPC ask the Board for some continued involvement by Riley Allen now that he has joined the Board staff?

Discussion: A presentation to the PSB would be valuable to keep them up to date on progress organizationally and substantively. The focus should not be on specific projects, but rather on the progress the group has made in organization and in the work of its subcommittees.

Conclusion: Agenda for VSPC meeting. Staff to prepare a draft letter from the VSPC to the PSB proposing a presentation and describing the format, which will be organized around the subcommittees, with a presentation also from staff on the organizational issues. The group agreed that we should wait to hear about the PSB's consideration of whether it is appropriate and feasible for Riley Allen to be involved with the VSPC going forward without jeopardizing his ability to hear 248 cases that may be addressed by projects that go through the VSPC.

Does the VSPC want to send the letter, drafted by Bruce Bentley following the Energy Efficiency & Forecasting Subcommittee meeting, to the Public Service Board regarding geo-targeting recommendations?

Question: See attached message and draft letter from Bruce Bentley.

Discussion: Geotargeting input was provided by the utilities in the first round. In the current situation, utilities participated in a meeting under the auspices of the Energy Efficiency & Forecasting Subcommittee. Then Bruce Bentley reached out to those who weren't in attendance at the EE&F meeting. The only open question is whether Lyndonville Electric has any recommendations for targeting in its area. Bruce will work with TJ Poor to give the EE&F report on this issue at the 9/10 VSPC meeting.

Conclusion: Because of time pressure, Bruce will prepare the letter regarding geo-targeting immediately, before he leaves on vacation, and the letter will be signed by the distribution utilities that have signed on. Deena will use Bruce's letter to create a follow-up letter of support from the VSPC that will be agendaed for the September meeting.

Implications of the Project Priority List timeline for scheduling of future VSPC work.

Question: What study groups are/may be needed for upcoming projects on the project priority list? Have we met the deadlines in the Project Priority List associated with the Lyndonville project? If yes, what's next to keep us on track? If no, do we need to inform the Board? (See page 7 of the Project Priority List.) What constitutes meeting the deadlines in the Project Priority List, e.g., do the dates imply that the utility is finished with the step or that the VSPC is finished with the step? How will the VSPC deal with the provisions of Paragraphs 32 (affected utility determination) and 53 (advisory votes where solution selection deadlines have been missed) going forward?

Discussion: The group agreed that there is a lack of clarity regarding how to operationalize many provisions of the MOU, and that there is a need to create a governance document that explains the procedures to be used to implement processes agreed to in the MOU. There are more questions on people's minds in addition to those listed above.

Conclusion: Agenda for the next VSPC meeting a discussion of (1) scheduling a workshop to develop the "governance" document; (2) generating additional questions that the governance document should address; (3) inviting participation by all VSPC members; (4) reviewing the project priority list to determine whether there are projects that need project study groups.

Follow-up on ISO response to parity letter

Question: What does VSPC need to do to responds to the ISO response? See <http://www.vermontspc.com/VSPC%20Reports%20%20Correspondence/isoresponse080824.pdf>

Discussion: Does this indicate progress in leveling the playing field for NTAs? There was a shared sense in the group that the tone of the ISO letter was different from the past and represented a sense of progress. The concept of using the Coolidge Connector as a strawman was discussed.

Conclusion: Agenda for September VSPC meeting to discuss how to respond to ISO letter and what form a meeting might take. The group should also address how to involve the PSB in light of the ISO letter being addressed to both the VSPC and PSB Chairman Volz.

What can be/should be done to re-synchronize the load and DSM forecast in the next round so the DSM forecast can support the load forecast?

This is an information item for the September meeting.

Further agenda items

- Dissolving of NTA Screening Subcommittee now that its work is completed.
- Coolidge: nothing to report.
- GAR update by GMP
- Be sure transmission presentation to Generation Subcommittee is in VSPC package and is covered in James Gibbons' report from the Generation Subcommittee.
- Feedback from VSPC on plan for format of Long Range Transmission Plan.

