

Deena Frankel

From: Deena Frankel
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 2:17 PM
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Cc: George Twigg
Subject: VSPC Public Participation charter and notes
Attachments: 20130313_PPsub_draftcharter_v3_1441942_1_GT.docx

Attached is the revised VSPC Public Participation Subcommittee charter based on our May meeting. Notes from the meeting appear below. Your comments, additions, deletions, corrections are invited.

Deena

Public Participation Subcommittee
Meeting Notes
5/17/2013

Participants: Michael Kirick, Dotty Schnure, Jeff Wolfe, Mary Sullivan, Shana Duval, Deena Frankel, Jim Wilbur, George Twigg

The meeting was called to order by George Twigg, subcommittee chair, at 10:00 a.m. at Vermont Energy Investment Corporation offices, Burlington.

Deena Frankel provided a brief introduction to the VSPC. (Slides are posted to the subcommittees section of the VSPC website, vermontspc.com)

The group discussed strategies for public outreach:

- The lack of energy literacy is a key problem to be addressed by energy-related public outreach activities (by VSPC and others)
- Utility bills can be a channel for communication, but increasing use of electronic, paperless approaches reduces the effectiveness of bill stuffers.
- The public outreach task is multi-faceted. When a transmission project may be sited in an area, public outreach has urgency and relevance to those who may be affected. Other public outreach tasks may have less urgency and relevance: awareness of VSPC and opportunities for public education about energy.
- Monitoring news stories for public information opportunities regarding the VSPC.

The group reviewed the draft charter for the subcommittee. Points of discussion included:

- Clarifying the subcommittee's role in executing communications versus advising the utilities who have communications obligations under the Docket 7081 MOU and other utility obligations.
- Emphasizing the importance of working with other energy related groups and activities to reach stakeholders. For example, developing a calendar of conferences like REV and VECAN to incorporate VSPC/transmission planning information into their agendas, rather than relying solely on VSPC-specific meetings where the issues of transmission may not be as urgent or relevant on their own.
- The group identified several edits to be made to the draft charter for submission to the VSPC. The draft has now been posted in the Subcommittee section of the VSPC website.

The group discussed the assignment from the Public Service Board to aid in generating interest in VSPC candidacy to fill the vacant business alternate public member slot (and others in the future). George agreed to draft a letter to business groups. Shana agreed to retrieve the business group contact list that was previously developed by for the smart grid/eEnergy Vermont grant. Some business groups that were specifically cited include Associated Industries of Vermont, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, VT Businesses for Social Responsibility and the Business Roundtable.

The group discussed the concept of increasing awareness of the VSPC. Some examples include legislative briefings and participation in the generation siting commission deliberations, where the VSPC has been discussed as a stakeholder engagement model.

Recent trends in the utility/energy field, particularly declining loads due to economy, energy efficiency and distributed generation, are of great interest to many stakeholders and are having a profound effect on the utility and transmission planning landscape. It was pointed out that these topics are ways of increasing interest in transmission related issues.

The group agreed that it would meet quarterly midway between VSPC quarterly meetings.

Staff agreed to provide an email distribution list of the subcommittee membership to the group.

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