

Vermont System Planning Committee
Geotargeting Subcommittee
March 11, 2014
Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Gillian Eaton, VEIC
Mike Wickenden, VEIC
Steve Litkovitz, GMP
Deena Frankel, VELCO
Kim Jones, GMP
Jen Lee-Therault, BED
TJ Poor, PSD
Melissa Bailey, VPPSA
Bill Powell, WEC
Barry Murphy, PSD

Agenda:

- Review and approval of 12-20-13 meeting minutes
- Status of the Geotargeting process
- St. Albans Reliability Plan analysis results
- EE Calculator developed for St. Albans by GEEG
- Rutland Reliability Plan status/analysis
- Geotargeting Impact Evaluation
- Next meeting of the full VSPC
- Next Meeting

Discussions:

- Review and approval of 12-20-13 meeting minutes
 - If no comments are received by the end of the week, then the minutes will be posted to the VSPC website and be considered approved.
- Status of the Geotargeting process
 - St. Albans reliability plan is due April 1st.
 - DU's should presently be in the process of screening constraints to present to the subcommittee at the May Geotargeting meeting. Results would then be brought to the full VSPC in June.
 - No new transmission constraints have been identified by VELCO.
 - Deena has offered to develop a checklist tool to help utilities track their progress through the various steps in the Process Map.

- St. Albans Reliability Plan analysis results
 - GMP distributed a final Reliability Plan to the subcommittee. GMP worked with VEIC and Essex Partnership to develop the plan that considers DSM and generation resources to defer a new substation in St. Albans.
 - GMP assumed an optimistic 2% growth in the area. While there may be a gap, it is likely small and able to be addressed with future NTAs.
 - GMP recommends continuing to monitor loads in the area.

- EE Calculator developed for St. Albans by GEEG
 - Is this tool usable for future constrained areas? Is this something that VEIC would be able to help DUs use in the future?
 - VEIC expressed some concerns with the estimated cost section of the tool, namely the use of historic costs. Recalibrating the tool may be useful for future applications. VEIC is willing to continue working to refine the tool.
 - Simplifying the tool may be helpful for DU use.
 - Perhaps the remaining members of GEEG know the tool well enough to provide assistance moving forward.
 - Another option is to have VEIC perform the analysis, either with or without the aid of the GEEG tool.

- Rutland Reliability Plan status/analysis
 - GMP will not have a detailed Reliability Plan for April 1st. GMP has analyzed the impact of solar installations in the area. GMP finds that peak loads are occurring after sundown, therefore solar alone cannot address the constraint.
 - GMP can present this portion of the analysis and supplement the Reliability plan in the area moving forward.
 - If the Grandpa's Knob Wind project uses the available circuit breaker position at the VELCO West Rutland substation, this would add \$10 million to the GMP project resulting in a \$20 million substation upgrade. The wind developer remains in the ISO queue. With a \$20 million project, NTAs may be competitive. However, for a \$10 million project, NTAs are likely not cost-competitive.
 - In the Screening Framework and Guidelines, a Reliability Plan is defined in paragraph 3f.
 - Given the uncertainty of the West Rutland substation position, it may not be prudent to invest ratepayer funds into a detailed analysis.
 - The substation upgrade is beyond GMP's 2015 and 2016 budgets.
 - TJ recommends that for April 1st GMP file everything that it knows at this point and explain very clearly the constraints to completing a Reliability Plan.
 - It may be useful for GMP to begin investigating efficiency opportunities soon for this area even before full knowledge of the West Rutland circuit breaker position is known. This strategy can provide more time to implement measures if NTAs are found to be cost-effective.

- Geotargeting Impact Evaluation
 - The Department has funds in its evaluation budget to evaluate geotargeting. An evaluation could consider:
 - Process
 - Impact
 - Benefits (including cost allocation issues)
 - Has there been enough time and history with this current process to provide good data on process? Perhaps an evaluation of the impact of geotargeting would be appropriate?
 - Finding the impact of energy efficiency on a feeder could be difficult given the amount of net metering that is on these feeders and the lack of metering on these units.
 - Perhaps an impact analysis could confirm (or not) that geotargeting and its incremental costs are worthwhile and cost-effective for ratepayers and actually help defer T&D upgrades.
 - A higher level cost-benefit analysis (which would be lower cost) could be helpful and demonstrate the value of geotargeting. A circuit level analysis would likely be much more costly and require a significant level of utility resources.
 - Next steps: The Department will consider this issue further and frame possible research questions that could possibly evolve into a scope of work.

- Next meeting of the full VSPC
 - Date is April 30th
 - Topics to be presented by the Geotargeting Subcommittee to the full VSPC:
 - Rutland reliability plan update
 - Update of GT meeting activities
 - Reminder to other DUs of need to consider constraints and plans to address them

- Next Geotargeting Subcommittee Meeting
 - Tentatively May 13th, 1:00 to 4:00 at VEIC