

## VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 30, 2014  
DOUBLETREE, SOUTH BURLINGTON

The Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) held a regular meeting on April 30, 2014, at the Doubletree Hotel, South Burlington, Vermont. Deena Frankel called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Steve Litkovitz moved approval of the December 11, 2013, and February 11, 2014, minutes, Hantz Pr sum  seconded and the minutes were approved without objection.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Participants introduced themselves. A list of attendees by sector appears on page 8 of these minutes. Ms. Frankel welcomed Nathaniel Vandal and Gabrielle Stebbins as the newly appointed Supply Resources representative and alternate respectively.

### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

#### GEOGRAPHICAL TARGETING SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Litkovitz reported that the GT Subcommittee will hold a meeting with distribution utilities on May 13 to discuss what reliability project the DUs are planning and whether potential exists for any project to be avoided or deferred through geographical targeting of energy efficiency or distributed generation. No new transmission constraints have been identified. The Public Service Department (PSD) has funds available for an impact evaluation of geographical targeting. TJ Poor is working with PSD to frame the research and will discuss the project further with the GT subcommittee. GMP filed reliability plans for St. Albans and Rutland areas on April 2, 2014. Comments are due May 1. Currently the cost of the transmission solution is unknown for Rutland reliability issue because of uncertainty regarding the realization of the Grandpa's Knob wind project. That proposed project has been assigned a breaker position in the West Rutland substation making that position unavailable to and GMP to address the Rutland reliability issue. The cost of the transmission solution will be materially different if the Grandpa's Knob project does not move forward, and the breaker consequently becomes available. The GT subcommittee has urged GMP to consider energy efficiency to help address the constraint.

#### FORECASTING SUBCOMMITTEE

Carole Hakstian, Forecasting Subcommittee Assistant Chair, gave an overview of the subcommittee's January 30 and March 19 meetings. The subcommittee has been working with Eric Fox, of Itron, which is again contracted to do the VELCO forecast, and has asked the group for input on how to improve on the forecast in light of many unique in-state issues such as the penetration of net metering and distributed renewables. Mr. Fox will meet with the subcommittee May 22 to discuss how he can incorporate the group's input. Ms. Hakstian reported that the subcommittee is considering creating a data repository, possibly available on the VSPC website, to share information among utilities and to improve the forecast. There is a large amount of data available, and the committee would like to make it usable.

#### COORDINATING SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Deena Frankel presented meeting dates with the adjusted calendar to accommodate deadlines for the GT process and in relation to the LRTP. Below are the dates we adopted at the December 2013 quarterly meeting.

July 23, 2014 9:30am-4:00pm Capitol Plaza, Montpelier	
October 8, 2014 9:30am-4:00pm Holiday Inn, Rutland	Coordinates with geographic targeting recommendation filing requirements
January 28, 2015 9:30am-4:00pm Langevin House, VT Tech, Randolph	Enables VSPC to review the draft 2015 Long-Range Transmission Plan without scheduling a special meeting

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Frankel reported that the redesigned VSPC website was launched on April 16. A more public launch will take place soon. The focus of the redesign was to effectively support the public information purpose of the site and support the function of the VSPC. Ms. Frankel provided a website tour of the new and improved VSPC site.

VELCO is offering a tour of the VELCO facility—a presentation and overview will be scheduled for VSPC members interested in learning more about the organization. A notice will be sent out to the group.

George Twigg, subcommittee chair, reported that the Public Participation Subcommittee will meet soon to discuss potential VSPC roles in public information related to the Governors’ Infrastructure Initiative, merchant transmission, and other regional developments.

#### 2015 VERMONT LONG-RANGE TRANSMISSION PLAN

The Forecasting Committee will meet with Itron on May 22 to discuss forecast assumptions and approach to Vermont’s forecast. Itron will help specifically address net metering, standard offer, renewable energy, and the treatment of electric vehicles in the forecast. A draft forecast will be ready this summer and will be updated later on in the year before we submit the draft. VELCO will contact distribution utilities for information about their system constraints and prepare a high-level scope for the plan to be presented to the VSPC in July. The basis for the transmission analysis for years 1-10 will be ISO-New England’s ten-year. Load is flat, so the 10-year look will be similar to the 20-year look. The years 11-20 analysis is not a very accurate look at the system, but can provide some directional information. VELCO will complete the analysis and present a draft to VSPC in January 2015. The VSPC then has 60 days to provide comment. In April and May public draft will be disseminated and VELCO will hold a series of public outreach meetings around the state to gather input on the plan from the public. The final plan is due to the Public Service Board and Public Service Department on July 1, 2015.

#### REGIONAL/ISO-NEW ENGLAND UPDATES

## NEW ENGLAND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE AND POWER IMPORT ALTERNATIVES

Mr. Kerrick Johnson presented on current regional transmission proposals, their drivers and how the proposals may impact Vermont. Retirements of generators and natural gas constraints are causing reliability issues for the region. In response, multiple developers are advancing proposals to deliver renewable energy to New England. At least three potential elective transmission project proposals would impact Vermont including (1) Anbaric's Grand Isle Intertie, (2) TDI's New England Clean Power Link and (3) Hydro-Quebec's Highgate Expansion. VELCO is communicating with developers regarding physical access, environmental data and easement conditions on VELCO's rights-of-way. Next steps include understanding the options, finishing the rights-of-way valuation and ensuring there is value in the projects for Vermont.

To address the reliability issues, the New England Governors are advancing a collaborative plan to expand gas pipeline capacity into the region and to build transmission to facilitate power imports. The New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) or ISO-NE will issue an RFP in late October 2014 and review projects based on price and feasibility. The proposal for these projects is to socialize the costs among New England electric ratepayers.

Michael Wickenden proposed that the VSPC consider what role it should play in discussing and reviewing regional transmission initiatives impacting Vermont and potentially taking a more public posture in the matter. Ms. Frankel suggested that staff work with interested VSPC members to draft a proposal for appropriate action to be considered by the VSPC.

Mr. Wickenden moved and Mr. Vandal seconded that the Coordinating Subcommittee craft a proposed path on the issue of the VSPC's role in commenting on the regional infrastructure initiative, proposal to be considered at the next VSPC quarterly meeting. GMP stated it would not object to the motion, but could not guarantee participation in crafting the proposal. The motion was adopted without objection.

## FORWARD CAPACITY MARKET REDESIGN COST IMPLICATIONS

Mr. Pr sum  reported on ISO-New England's new load curve design developed in response to FERC requirements. The purpose of the redesign is to provide more effective price signals in the forward capacity market.

Mr. Pr sum  also described changes underway in ISO incentives to generators to meet or exceed performance expectations.

## CAPACITY ZONE MODELING

ISO-NE will utilize eight zones in the next forward capacity market. Currently there are four zones, some of which are export limited. Vermont New Hampshire and western Massachusetts will be combined into a single zone whereas southwest Connecticut and Boston are their own zones.

## STATUS REPORT ON ISO-NEW ENGLAND VT/NH NEEDS STUDY UPDATE

ISO-NE finalized the distributed generation forecast to be used in the VT/NH study. The DG being counted in the study is comprised entirely of solar resources. Next year's forecast will include all available distributed generation. ISO-NE's next step is to incorporate other technologies. ISO is currently surveying various utilities to gather information to inform the process.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### PROJECT-SPECIFIC ACTION/RELIABILITY PLANS FOR PROJECTS THAT SCREENED IN FOR NTA ANALYSIS

#### **Rutland:**

**St. Albans/East Fairfax:** Ms. Jones reported GMP has filed its Section 248 permit application for a 115/34.5 KW injection point on Ballard Road. The work plan calls for construction to start in October 2014 and be completed by April 2015.

### DISTRIBUTION RELIABILITY PLANS (AS REQUIRED BY DOCKET 7873 SCREENING FRAMEWORK; NOT A DOCKET 7081 REQUIREMENT)

**St. Albans Distribution Reliability Plan:** This issue was identified to address reliability exposure and a gap that would require shedding load in the St. Albans area. After completing the analysis, GMP determined no gap would exist in the foreseeable future, with some uncertainty for characteristics of new load coming on line at an industrial facility in the St. Albans area. Geotargeting energy efficiency in this area will continue this year. GMP will monitor the area over the summer, assessing the impact the industrial load has on the area.

### STATUS UPDATE OF REMAINING DEFICIENCIES

**Newport:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that a conditions assessment showed the Newport substation showed deficiencies. Newport is one of five substations that are part of the Substation Conditions Assessment Project. The project will resolve protection control reliability problems. A second protection system and a second battery, control panels, conduits, breakers will need to be replaced. The project was screened out of full NTA analysis. Mr. Pr sum  asked for feedback about whether NTA screenings such as this one need to come to the VSPC. Feedback from the committee was that the information is useful.

**Northern area:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that this is a voltage issue and that the power factor is critical. VELCO is working with VEC and the local utilities (Orleans, Barton) to ensure we represent the load and power factor accurately.

**IBM area:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that the project is on hold because the potential transmission projects that connect to Vermont could have a significant effect in the Essex area. More information is needed before moving forward with IBM/Essex area modification, thus this project is on hold until we have more information.

**Colchester:** Mr. Litkovitz reported that a subtransmission line washed out by Hurricane Irene is under construction and GMP hopes to have it in service by July 2014. The second project involves a distribution feeder into the Winooski area and unloading the subtransmission in the area. The Section 248 petition will be filed at the end of May.

**Hartford/Ascutney:** Ms. Jones reported that the Hartford/Ascutney reliability issue concerns ability to support load in the area with the loss of the transformer. GMP received a CPG to reconductor this area. The project is currently under construction and should be completed by summer 2014. The project also requires a capacitor bank, which will be located at the newly proposed White River Junction substation.

GMP anticipates a filing a CPG application for this project within the next month with construction projected to start next year.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on July 23, 2014, at Capitol Plaza in Montpelier.

## ATTENDANCE

\*Indicates voting member

\*\*Indicates alternate

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### PUBLIC SECTOR

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\*Michael Kirick, Commercial & Industrial  
\*Johanna Miller, Environmental  
Jim Wilbur

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### TRANSMISSION UTILITY (VELCO)

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\*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO  
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO

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### DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES PROVIDING TRANSMISSION (GMP, VEC)

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\*Steve Litkovitz, GMP  
\*\*Doug Smith, GMP  
\*\*Rip Kirby  
Kim Jones, CVPS

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### LARGE TRANSMISSION-DEPENDENT DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES (BED, WEC)

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\*Munir Kasti, BED  
\*Bill Powell, WEC (via phone)

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### TRANSMISSION DEPENDENT DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES (MUNICIPALS)

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\*Melissa Bailey, VPPSA

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### SUPPLY & DEMAND RESOURCES

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\*Michael Wickenden, VEIC  
Carole Hakstian, VEIC  
George Twigg, VEIC  
Nathaniel Vandal, REV

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### NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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Al St. Peter, DPS

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### STAFF

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Deena Frankel, VELCO  
Shana Duval, VELCO

Guests  
Gabrielle Stebbins  
RJ Pack  
Dean Dennis (via phone)  
Bernadette Fernandes (via phone)  
Gillian Eaton (via phone)  
Diana Lee (via phone)