

VSPC Forecasting Subcommittee Draft Charter

Purpose

The Forecasting Subcommittee is intended to be a forum for discussion and action regarding load forecasts developed by Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) members, ISO-New England (ISO-NE), and others. In particular, the Subcommittee will review and provide direction regarding forecasts that are developed and utilized in the VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan (LRTP) and Non-Transmission Alternative (NTA) Studies, and other areas as appropriate. The Subcommittee will also act as forum for disseminating ISO-NE forecasts, and understanding differences between Vermont utility, VELCO, and ISO-NE forecasts.

The objective of the subcommittee is to enhance the forecasting entity's ability to provide robust, well-vetted, valid forecasts that are well understood by stakeholders, and appropriately shared with other relevant stakeholders and the general public.

This subcommittee will provide direction and feedback to forecasting utilities with regard to the following issues:

1. The development of baseline forecasts (before load reductions derived from energy efficiency, demand response, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)-enabled rates and load management) of area-specific and/or statewide load; including but not limited to key forecasting metrics and data sources related to:
 - a. Vermont system loads (annual, monthly, or other time increment such as hourly).
 - b. Prevailing and forecasted economic conditions in the state, including Gross State Product, income, employment, and other key indicators.
 - c. Demographic data, such as population, housing units, building permits, etc.
 - d. Fuel prices.
 - e. Weather data.
 - f. Appliance saturation and efficiency trends.
 - g. Historic and forecasted demand response.
 - h. Integration of expected renewable energy or distributed generation installations connected to the utility. Integration of expected renewable energy or distributed generation installations connected on the customer side of the meter.
 - i. Impact of electric vehicles, heat pumps, or other "electro-technologies" that may switch Vermont's energy consumption to electricity from other fuels.

- j. Impact of new technologies, programs, or fuel availability that may encourage fuel switching *away* from electricity (for example, increased use of natural gas for heating and drying processes).
2. The integration of demand-side management activities into area-specific or statewide load forecasts, including:
 - a. Energy efficiency.
 - b. Demand response.
 - c. Rate design and load management programs or technologies that may be enabled by AMI deployment or by other means.
 - d. Interactive effects of the above listed activities.
3. With regard to the incorporation of energy efficiency into forecasts
 - a. The appropriate methodology to incorporate Board ordered long-term forecasts of efficiency acquisition by Energy Efficiency Utilities as provided pursuant to Paragraph 61 of the Docket 7081 MOU, including explicit understanding of the amount of energy efficiency assumed to be embedded in the forecast, if any.
 - b. The appropriate methodology to estimate energy efficiency potential for area-specific forecasts.
 - c. The appropriate treatment of measure decay or the end of installed efficiency measure life.
 - d. The appropriate treatment of a rebound effect or “snap-back.”
 - e. The appropriate treatment of free-riders, spillovers, and other potential market effects.
4. Identification of appropriate methods for sharing information among VSPC subcommittees, Vermont utilities, state government and other entities, in regard to the relevant constrained areas, the relevant loads and the impacts of DSM and DR programs on the constrained areas.

This subcommittee will also:

1. Review in detail ISO-NE or other forecasts relevant to Vermont, providing a venue for thorough understanding of the differences between forecasts and recommending any action steps to minimize those differences; and
2. Coordinate with the Geotargeting Subcommittee to provide feedback and direction with regard to development of forecasts for potential areas to be targeted with energy efficiency, standard offer, or other resources.

3. Communicate when appropriate with relevant outside organizations such as Efficiency Vermont and GMP's Energy Innovation Center.

This subcommittee will not actually generate forecasts, but it may offer its recommendations on specific forecasts by VSPC members. Forecasting will be the work of the project area subgroups, individual utilities, VELCO and the EEU (for DSM forecasts), informed and guided by this subcommittee's recommendations. In short, the responsibility of this subcommittee is to provide guidance and direction for developing robust, valid forecasts.

Deliverables

The Subcommittee will provide recommendations to the full VSPC regarding forecasts used in the Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan or area-specific NTA Study Group analyses. The Subcommittee will provide written deliverables as needed or requested by the VSPC.

Public Participation

[Add language to ensure public participation and engagement]

Protocol and Operating Procedures

This subcommittee will accomplish its objective through the collective efforts of participating members with expertise in forecasting, energy efficiency, and electric transmission and planning, as well as the general public. It is expected that all members will meet regularly, and at a minimum in accordance with the below schedule. The subcommittee will also meet as determined by the VSPC, or upon reasonable requests from other subcommittees or study groups.

All subcommittee meetings will be noticed at least one week in advance and all agendas, materials, and minutes will be posted to the VSPC website.

The Chair will take responsibility for organizing, operating and documenting the meetings of this subcommittee, consistent with the expectations and procedural requirements of the VSPC. At a minimum, the subcommittee will require a Chairperson and Assistant Chairperson (who will run meetings in the Chair's absence and document the meetings).

The subcommittee recognizes that every member has a contribution to make. Therefore, the subcommittee will operate its meetings in an open, free-exchange atmosphere. Any member is free to introduce and discuss whatever topic he/she deems is appropriate to fulfilling the aforementioned feedback and direction, provided that: (1) best efforts are made to provide notice of the topic prior to the meeting, and (2) time permits. The Chair, or a subcommittee appointee, will represent the subcommittee before the VSPC or other groups. However, this should in no way restrict or limit the participation of any subcommittee member from contributing to the deliberations on subcommittee matters before the VSPC or any other committee or subgroup. The acceptance of all recommendations to the VSPC concerning guidelines will be subject to a majority vote of the attending members, although best efforts will be made to establish a consensus.

Schedule

The Committee will meet on an ad hoc basis when tasked to address NTA study group or other forecast issues. Quarterly meetings, and meetings prior to development of a VELCO Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan, will occur according to the schedule below.

[Ed. Note – intent here is to have a regular meeting schedule cycle where committee will be scheduled to meet in advance, such as once per quarter when no LRTP and more often for LRTP]

Annual Meeting Schedule (Meetings on Second Wednesday of month)	
State economic outlook	February
Review ISO-NE forecast	May
Review annual peak, performance of VELCO and/or area-specific forecasts	October (potentially joint meeting with GT committee)
Review any updates to forecast	November
Prior to the development of 3-year LRTP update (the next is due in 2015; schedule may be modified as needed by Chair)	
Key inputs into forecast; identify data sources, key metrics that should be considered	May 2014
Review methodology to reflect the effects of future committed energy efficiency, net metering, distributed generation, and other committed small scale resources	July 2014
State economic outlook and results of the most recent saturation survey	August 2014
Review draft forecast	November 2014
Review final forecast	December 2014