

VSPC NTA Screening Tool Teleconference Notes

January 30, 2008

Attendees: Tom Buckley, BED
Bruce Bentley, CVPS
Chris Diebold, VELCO
Dean LaForest, VELCO
Steve Litkovitz, DPS
David Grimason, Grimason Associates, LLC (for GMP)

The main purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion as to whether a new project screening tool needed to be developed for transmission projects or the existing project screening tool developed in Docket 6290 with minor modification would work for both distribution projects and transmission projects.

Bruce Bentley reported that based on his research, changes to the Docket 6290 project screening tool for use on screening bulk transmission projects would not need approval from the Board. However, the Board should be informed of the changes.

Dean LaForest provide data from Handy Whitman Index that indicated the 2002 cost threshold limits in the Docket 6290 project screening tool should be escalated by 38% to reflect current T&D construction and equipment costs.

Some of the issues that were discussed for and against two separate screening tools included:

- Some screening question don't apply to transmission projects
- The tool is for the planning group and does not need to address projects handled by engineering or asset management groups
- Care needs to be taken not to screen out smaller projects where an NTA may be viable
- Disproportionate spending on NTA analysis as compared to project costs.
- Need to screen out projects with a low probability of a NTA being viable.

Ultimately the group agreed that it would be best to create a separate project screening tool for transmission projects but the new tool should be based on the Docket 6290 project screening tool.

There was general agreement that sub-transmission projects could be addressed by either the transmission screening tool or the distribution screening tool. The appropriate screening tool a specific sub-transmission projects would be based on the function the sub-transmission project was to serve, not on voltage level. The appropriate tool to use would be handled on a project by project basis.

Dean LaForest presented a screening tool he developed with other staff at VELCO for discussion.

A lengthy discussion pursued comparing the existing screen tool and VELCO's proposed tool.

Final agreement on a new tool was not reached but parties agreed to continued discussion between now and the next meeting to reach a better understanding of what needs to be address in the new transmission screening tool.

Action items:

- Steve Litkovitz, Dean LaForest will continue discussion about the new screening tool to get a better understanding of what needs to be included in the new screening tool prior to our next meeting. Other parties can also provide input.
- Bruce Bentley and Dave Grimason will research on why screening questions 9 through 12 on the Docket 6290 screening tool were included. They appear to be redundant.

The next meeting is tentatively schedule for February 28 at 10:00 in Middlebury at CVPS's office. The goal of this meeting will be to agree on the screening criteria for the bulk transmission screening tool.