

Vermont System Planning Committee  
Geotargeting Subcommittee  
June 23, 2015  
Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Melissa Bailey, Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA)  
Gillian Eaton, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)  
Deena Frankel, Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO)  
Kim Jones, Green Mountain Power (GMP)  
Steve Litkovitz, GMP  
Bill Powell, Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC)  
Hantz Pr sum , VELCO  
Al St. Peter, Vermont Public Service Department (PSD)  
Kris Smith, Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC)  
John Woodward, PSD, Chair

Agenda:

Welcome, introductions, and agenda review  
Review and approval of the March 18, 2015 meeting minutes  
VELCO NTA screening of the PV20 cable replacement project  
VEC capital project spreadsheet  
GMP potential NTA projects spreadsheet  
Next meeting date and agenda

Discussions:

- Review and approval of the March 18, 2015, meeting minutes
  - GMP has revisions/corrections. They committed to circulating them immediately following the June 23 meeting, and the group agreed to a one-week period for any further revisions and comments. After the week has elapsed, staff will post the edited version.
- Welcome and introductions
  - The group welcomed John Woodward as the new chair of the subcommittee.
  - Deena described the process used to reach out to all the utilities to obtain reports on any relevant projects for purposes of GT screening.
- Review of VEC capital project spreadsheet
  - Kris Smith introduced the VEC spreadsheet stating that VEC's projects are related to asset condition and reconductoring of old lines.

- A few questions were posed to VEC about the scope of particular projects.
  - The duplication of the South Alburgh item was noted and will be corrected by VEC.
  - The group discussed the NEK connector project. This is an economic development project and federal grant to promote economic development by bringing three-phase power. VEC has obtained a CPG for the transformer. The distribution line required Act 250 approval. The group acknowledged that this is an example of projects that have a separate track from the reliability framework of Docket 7081.
  - Kris reviewed the distribution projects on the spreadsheet. He noted that VEC is now updating its IRP, but generally is seeing load growth insufficient to trigger the need for upgrades.
  - The group discussed the impact of distributed generation (DG) on utility systems and the need for planning to take into consideration the potential for DG growth. For example, in areas where solar potential is high, it may make sense to install a larger transformer than needed for immediate growth. The GMP mapping project will help provide info to developers about where areas are more or less constrained. John pointed out the PSD position is filed in the net metering rulemaking to provide incentives for locating in areas of lower impact to the grid.
- GMP potential NTA projects spreadsheet
    - GMP reviewed its NTA projects spreadsheet, which was provided to subcommittee members by email. Notes on each project can be viewed at:  
[http://www.velco.com/assets/documents/GMP%20Geotargeting%20Areas%20\(6-22-15\).xlsx](http://www.velco.com/assets/documents/GMP%20Geotargeting%20Areas%20(6-22-15).xlsx)
    - In the discussion of the Airport Substation, Steve noted the change of approach being employed for this area to take a broader view of the Chittenden County area, considering the eight relevant substations together. He said this is not a novel approach, but is a wider view to optimize the system, which will also have the benefit of encompassing the Susie Wilson Road area, which was formerly geotargeted. Gillian asked whether Winooski was included in the Chittenden County area. Steve stated that Winooski was not included because it is at a different distribution voltage.
    - GMP addressed the Hinesburg area in greater detail than the others. This is the only area that has been identified for the potential to avoid an infrastructure project with non-transmission alternatives, and is the one area where a reliability plan may be needed in 2016. GMP has found a way to address the protection issues on the existing system. The company is now working with ResAmerica on the feasibility of non-traditional, storage solutions to resolve the remaining issues concerning motor-starting capability at the end of the Hinesburg feeder. If a least-cost solution, or one that has added value as a pilot for other areas, can be identified for the system strength issue, a reliability plan for the area would be the next step. GMP expects to have results from the ResAmerica analysis by the end of July. The group agreed that GMP's report of analysis should be the trigger for the next meeting, since the current step in the GT

process is to build the VSPC recommendations to the Board due in October regarding the need for future reliability plans.

- VELCO NTA screening of the PV20 cable replacement project
  - Hantz explained the project and reviewed the NTA screening form. The project screens out because it addresses asset condition and is replacing existing infrastructure. VELCO pointed out that project updates have been presented several times to the VSPC, and the current step is for the purpose of getting the NTA screening into the record. No formal approval is required of the screening form.
  - John asked why threshold for triggering NTA analysis was set at \$2.5 million threshold. Steve and others reviewed the history of the NTA screening form summarizing that the threshold was set to ensure that we were focusing on meaningful opportunities for savings. Kim pointed out that the threshold is lower for the Docket 6290 screening form (for use in screening distribution projects and an option for screening subtransmission). Hantz reviewed how the screening tool is applied when the long-range plan is prepared and as projects arise between plans.
  
- Gillian suggested a check-in at the next meeting on how well the geographic targeting process is working following the re-tooling by the VSPC and submission to the PSB about two years ago. The group agreed to this agenda item. Gillian specifically pointed out some confusion where the energy efficiency potential analyses are in both the energy efficiency utility and distribution utility swim lanes.
  
- John pointed out recent comments by the PSD in the net metering rulemaking that the VSPC could be the place to work out a better approach to avoided costs transmission and distribution. Steve questioned whether another group was addressing this issue in the context of the net metering process. John stated that PSD will have a suggested set of T&D costs to wrap into net metering rates, but it won't be compulsory. The concept is to encourage utilities to develop costs on a case-by-case basis. As DG penetration increases, the standard values may not remain useful. Further work may be needed to understand costs and how they vary with specific projects.

#### Next meeting date and agenda

- The next meeting was scheduled for August 5 from 1 to 3:30 at the PSD Giga Room in Montpelier.
- Agenda items will include:
  - ✓ GMP update on Hinesburg
  - ✓ GMP closer look at Danby project
  - ✓ Review/check-in on GT process