

Vermont System Planning Committee
Geotargeting Subcommittee
Minutes
May 23, 2017 — 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Participants: Melissa Bailey (VPPSA), Cyril Brunner (VEC), Gillian Eaton (VEIC), Bernadette Fernandez (VELCO), Deena Frankel (VELCO), Kim Jones (GMP), Steve Litkovitz (GMP), Bill Powell (WEC), Nathaniel Vandal (supply resources), Dave Westman (VEIC), John Woodward (DPS).

John was participating by phone and requested that Deena facilitate the meeting. Deena reviewed the two purposes of the meeting: to review non-wires alternatives screenings of all projects that would require a Certificate of Public Good to determine whether any project may require a reliability plan; and to share information across all stakeholders about what is happening on the Vermont grid. If any project is identified as “screening in” using the appropriate screening tool, further analysis over the summer would be conducted to enable the VSPC to make its annual recommendation to the Public Service Board by November 1, 2017.

The meeting proceeded with presentations by the distribution utilities

Green Mountain Power (GMP)

Steve and Kim reviewed the GMP [project spreadsheet](#). (Minutes reflect only those items for which discussion occurred. Please refer to the spreadsheet for the project description and status.)

- Airport Substation: Asset condition project. Gillian asked how this related to past GT in Chittenden County. Kim responded that a separate Chittenden County analysis overlaps with Airport and the areas are interrelated. Once the Airport deficiency is resolved (CPG to be filed this summer), other Chittenden issues will be brought back to the group.
- Hinesburg: Currently subject to reliability plan. Kim asked the status of VEC land acquisition. VEC has shifted capital plans and land acquisition will probably happen 2019 or 2020.
- St. Albans: GMP is checking load growth regularly, and it remains flat. There is currently no need for upgrade within 10-year timeframe. Nathaniel asked what size load growth would trigger the need to address this issue. Steve responded it would take an additional 4 MW, which would be about 15% load growth. The group discussed the fact that prior GT effectively helped moderate load growth in this area.
- Milton: GMP is keeping an eye on the load to be sure full feeder backup capability remains available among the three substations in the region. This area would be a good place for battery storage, but this potential is unrelated to this analysis.
- Brattleboro: Kim responded to questions about how the ability-to-serve letters are reflected and updated in the spreadsheet.
- Rutland: This area was the subject of a reliability plan, so GMP is keeping it updated. GMP has filed for a CPG for the 46 kV line between West Rutland and VT Marble. Multiple measures are being implemented between now and 2020. Load is decreasing in the area.

- Windsor area: This project is budgeted in 2021. The highest peak, in 2013, exceeded the nameplate of the transformer, but load has decreased since then and is well below threshold. However, no feeder backup is available for these circuits. GMP is looking for land for a new substation that would enable it to provide feeder backup to the existing Windsor substation circuits. Gillian asked about the very big difference between the historic peak and the typical level. Kim responded that the duration of the peak was very brief and that there could be a data issue. The group discussed the balance of whether feeder backup trumps load growth in terms of choosing a wires solution, and agreed that it raises an interesting policy issue about the balance between reliability and the preference for non-wires solutions. GMP pointed out that it has not to date proposed a project that was purely for reliability.
- Barre: This project replaces old distribution and substation equipment and standardizes the area distribution voltage to 12.47 kV. GMP recently received a CPG to rebuild the Barre North End substation and is planning to file an application under Section 248 for the rebuild of the Barre South End substation this summer. Once these reconstructions are done and voltage conversion of distribution is completed, feeder backup will be available. Bernadette requested updates be provided to VELCO when these projects are done so VELCO can update its system model. GMP stated that Dan Belarmino at GMP is the person with the relevant information. Dave asked whether an analysis had ever been done regarding where the capital is focused, i.e., asset management vs feeder backup. Kim responded that the capital expenditures try to achieve both benefits, i.e., obtaining some feeder backup benefit where asset management work is being done. Steve estimated that adding feeder backup benefit adds less than 5% to the cost of projects.
- Lowell: GMP is studying whether upgrades to this area could help address the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI) limit and its curtailment of generation. Additional generation on this line exacerbates the problem. A study is in mid stages. One option would be to upgrade the GMP Lowell substation and the GMP Lowell-to-Johnson 34.5 kV subtransmission line. Deena reported the plan to hold a special VSPC meeting in June to address the SHEI limit issues in more depth. [Note: it was ultimately decided to address this meeting in the already scheduled quarterly meeting on July 12, rather than to call a special meeting.]
- Other projects on the spreadsheet were reviewed briefly without discussion.

Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC)

Cyril Brunner and Mike Beaulieu reviewed VEC's [project spreadsheet](#).

- VEC has revamped its capital budget and a number of projects have been delayed.
- Hinesburg: Gillian asked GMP whether VEC's delay of the substation would be a problem for GMP's Hinesburg needs. GMP responded that the delay is not a problem as GMP wants to address the battery storage project first.
- Fairfax 12: Mike explained this new project on the list is driven primarily by load growth from sugar makers. The need date is sooner than the 3-year timeframe and cannot be addressed with a non-wires alternative. The group discussed the NTA screening of this project.

- Belvidere: This issue is also driven by sugar making load.

Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC)

Bill Powell reported that WEC has no substation revisions in its planning horizon. They have offered to share their Rural Utilities Service (RUS) plan so that the group can see the projects that are on the WEC list. Bill will provide the relevant information to Deena for posting.

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) for its municipal members

VPPSA has one project to report from Morrisville. The group asked how often the munis do upgrades. Melissa stated it is reasonable to assume that there are very few. She has reviewed the IRPs and made direct requests from all the munis. If there are any other projects to report, she will provide an update to Deena.

Stowe and Burlington Electric Department

Deena reported that she would contact Stowe and BED to obtain their reports prior to the July VSPC meeting and would forward any information regarding their screenings to the subcommittee.

Bernadette reiterated the need to keep VELCO informed of upgrades and changes to the system so that VELCO can keep its model updated.