



**Draft Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2018  
Middlebury Inn  
Middlebury, VT**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a regular meeting on April 25, 2018, at the Middlebury Inn, Middlebury, Vermont. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Hantz Pr sum  moved approval of the January 24, 2018 minutes; Mike Wickenden seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

### **Introductions**

Participants introduced themselves. A list of attendees by sector appears at the end of these minutes.

### **Geographical Targeting Subcommittee**

Deena Frankel reported that with the departure former subcommittee chair, John Woodward from the Public Service Department, the position was vacant. She stated that generally the subcommittee has been chaired by a PSD representative and that PSD Director of Planning, Ed McNamara had agreed to accept the position if the subcommittee agreed. The matter will be decided at the next meeting, which will be scheduled for May or June to review any load-growth driven capital projects, and to determine the need for new reliability plans.

### **Forecasting Subcommittee**

Mr. Pr sum  reported that the subcommittee has not met since October, when the 2018 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan forecast was completed. However, the subcommittee will meet this summer, and continue to meet periodically until commencement of the next long-range plan to continue discussion of forecasting solar PV, energy efficiency, load management, and energy storage.

### **2018 VT Long-Range Transmission Plan**

Mr. Pr sum  provided an overview of the 2018 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan draft, including additional analysis completed since the last meeting of the VSPC. The additional scenarios examine different high solar PV scenarios in response to feedback received from VSPC members. These scenarios show significant challenges to the system that will need to be managed with careful planning, siting, load and generation management, and potentially system upgrades.

Public outreach for the Plan will take place through the month of May, with meetings in Brattleboro and Montpelier, and a webinar for REV members. As in previous years, VELCO will also present the Plan to several regional planning commissions as requested. With any public comments received by the end of

May included, the final version of the Plan will be submitted to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and PSD no later than July 1, 2018.

## **Implementation of revised IEEE Standard 1547**

David Forrest of ISO New England (ISO-NE) presented recent developments regarding regulation of distributed energy resource (DER) interconnection. The recent adoption of the IEEE 1547 standard provides a set of rules for DER interconnection; however, the corresponding test standard required for certification of DER equipment, UL 1741 SA, is not expected to be completed until 2020. Due to concern about the potential for adverse impact to the bulk transmission system, ISO-NE worked with the Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group (TSRG) to develop a testing standard known as the Inverter Source Requirements Document of ISO-NE (ISO-NE SRD). The capabilities required by the SRD include low-voltage ride-through, voltage deviation ride-through, and frequency deviation ride-through. The utilities of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire have each recommended to their respective regulators that some or all of its provisions be adopted. ISO-NE has and will continue to work with Vermont utilities to ensure that Vermont regulators adopt similar standards. Mr. McNamara indicated that PSD engineers are currently evaluating the SRD, and that its provisions are expected to be adopted by the PSD.

## **Coordinating Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle reconfirmed the dates and locations of future VSPC meetings: Montpelier July 18, 2018; Rutland, October 17, 2018; South Burlington, January 23, 2019.

## **Regional planning commission seat**

Ms. Frankel reported that the PUC established a new seat on the VSPC for a representative of municipal or regional planning entities and required the VSPC to propose amendments to the Docket 7081 memorandum of understanding to implement the new position. The PUC took comments on the VSPC's proposed amendment in March but approval is pending. The next step following approval of the VSPC-proposed procedure will be recruitment by the PUC of a representative to fill the seat. The VSPC will assist in publicizing availability of the seat if desired by the PUC.

## **Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface update**

Doug Smith, Power Supply Director for Green Mountain Power (GMP), provided an update on the effort of the distribution utilities (DUs) to mitigate generation curtailment in the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI). A working group of the DUs is convening to evaluate system upgrade options and other credible alternatives. Additionally, GMP has been working to negotiate the installation of voltage control equipment at the Sheldon Springs hydro facility to improve the SHEI limit, in the expectation that the payback period is only a few years.

## **Regional Update**

Molly Connors, ISO-NE External Affairs liaison for Vermont, reported that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission had recently approved ISO-NE's Competitive Auctions with Sponsored Policy Resources (CASPR) proposal. CASPR allows generators wishing to retire from the capacity market to be replaced by

renewable generators wishing to join the market, ensuring that new renewables can enter the market while sufficient generation capacity is obtained in the Forward Capacity Auction (FCA).

ISO-NE is investigating enhanced participation of storage in the markets, though no proposals have yet been put forward.

ISO-NE received requests from three market participants to retire from the capacity market, and performed analysis that determined the system could not be operated reliably without two of these generators. As such, ISO will seek a tariff waiver to retain those two units, Mystic 8 and 9, for purposes of fuel security.

## **Vermont Weather Analytics Center update**

Mary Coombs, Project Manager for Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO), reported on the status of the Vermont Weather Analytics Center (VWAC) and Utopus Insights (UI). UI has been acquired by Vestas, a multinational wind turbine manufacturer. Though Vestas' focus is on energy forecasting, it has stated its interest in continuing work on transmission and distribution initiatives. Tom Dunn will remain on the UI board of directors, and the Joint Development Agreement (JDA) between VELCO and UI will continue. With the sale complete, VELCO and UI have an opportunity to re-evaluate and strengthen their strategic partnership. Future work includes a 10-day forecast, and conductor icing prediction in collaboration with Lyndon State College.

## **Project and policy updates**

Ms. Louiselle gave an overview of legislative proceedings. Though the legislative session will end in about three weeks, it is expected that a veto session will occur. Omya will join the self-managed energy efficiency program created under H. 739 for a three-year pilot. H. 410, a bill drafted to address the SHEI, has been significantly altered to include provisions concerning electric vehicles, solar PV, cold climate heat pumps, and wood boilers. Additionally, there has been discussion of making the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) into statute, with the PSD to report periodically on progress made towards those goals.

Melissa Bailey, Power Supply Director for Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA), provided an update on changes to the Rule 5.100 net metering regulations adopted in 2017. This rule allows projects of size greater than 150 kW to be built only on locally designated "preferred" sites, and implemented cost adjustors based on siting and retention of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). Ahead of a PUC order due by May 1, the PSD recommended that siting adjustors be kept the same and that positive REC adjustors be adjusted slightly downwards.

Ms. Louiselle reported on contemplation at the Commission to restrict proposed standard offer resources from connecting within the SHEI. Several DUs and VELCO have given testimony, but the Commission has yet to rule.

Ms. Frankel described the status of PUC Docket 7307, which is the smart meter docket originally opened in 2012, but which remains open and includes proposed sets of principles on data privacy and cyber-security. The PSD worked with the utilities and other interested parties to update the draft principles, and the PUC held a workshop on the privacy component. The utilities' focus in the revision of the cyber-

security principles was to communicate effectively with state regulators and provide assurance of an effective program, while not adding new requirements.

Mr. Smith discussed the recent GMP rate case, filed on April 13. It is a traditional rate case, expected to take about seven months. The resulting rate changes would be implemented in January, 2019. Energy efficiency and steady-to-declining electricity sales exerted upwards rate pressure, but federal tax reform allowed a small net reduction in rates for 2019. Additional considerations in rate determination included increases in expected storm restoration costs, and reallocation of VELCO cost of service.

## Project Updates

**Connecticut River Valley Project:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that the final piece of the Connecticut River Valley Project, the Ascutney Static Var Compensator, is scheduled to be in service this summer.

**Northern Area:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that analysis performed for the 2018 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan has shown that the Northern Area no longer requires system upgrade.

**Rutland:** Kim Jones, Manager of Transmission and Distribution Planning for GMP, reported that reconductoring between Rutland and Florence is scheduled for August 2018, which will allow connection of the Rutland and Florence 46 kV systems. The rest of the Rutland reliability project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

**Hinesburg:** Ms. Jones reported that, because loads have not increased as expected, the battery energy storage system (BESS) at Hinesburg to address peak load concerns is not currently necessary for reliability. However, GMP will consider installation of a dynamic reactive power device at Hinesburg, and intends to pursue the installation of a BESS at Hinesburg in the future.

**PV-20:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that the new PV-20 cables are in service, and the old cables are to be removed from Lake Champlain this summer.

**Structure Condition Improvement Project:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that the VELCO Structure Condition Improvement (SCI) project, an initiative to replace aging transmission structures, is ongoing.

**Merchant elective transmission upgrades:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that there has been no recent activity regarding merchant Elective Transmission Upgrade (ETU) projects proposed in Vermont. Granite State Power Link, a merchant ETU sited in New Hampshire, continues in the ISO-NE study process.

## Attendance

\* Indicates voting member

\*\* Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

\*Michael Wickenden, residential representative

\*Michael Kirick, commercial representative

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

### Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

\*\*Doug Smith, GMP

Kim Jones, GMP

\*Cyril Brunner, VEC

### Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

\*Bill Powell, WEC

\*Munir Kastl, BED

### Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

Melissa Bailey, VPPSA

### Supply & Demand Resources

\*Dave Westman, VEIC

\*\*Gillian Eaton, VEIC

\*Nathaniel Vandal, Supply Representative

\*\*Olivia Campbell Anderson, REV

### Non-Voting Members

Ed McNamara, PSD

### Staff

Shana Louiselle, VELCO

Deena Frankel, VELCO

Lou Cecere, VELCO

### Guests

Molly Connors, ISO-NE

Mary Coombs, VELCO

Ryan Darlow, VERA

Tom Dunn, VELCO

David Forrest, ISO-NE

Evan Forward, Clearbloc Ltd.

Jeff Forward, REV

Eric Harrold, VELCO

Kim Hayden, Downs Rachlin & MartinWilliam

Jerome, VT Solar Farmers

Dan Kopin, Utility Services

Josh Leckey, Downs Rachlin & Martin

Joanna Miller, VNRC

Colin Owyang, VELCO

Chris Root, VELCO

Mark Sciarotta, VELCO

Jaime Smyrski, VELCO

Lincoln Sprague, Dynapower

Johnathon Willson, NextEra