Vermont System Planning Committee
Geotargeting Subcommittee
January 17, 2019
Draft Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Jay Pilliod, VEIC
Kim Jones, GMP
Mellissa Bailey, VPPSA
David Westman, VEIC
Hantz Presume, VELCO
Shana Louiselle, VELCO
Steve Litkovitz, GMP
Ed McNamara, PSD, Chair
Bill Powell, WEC
Michael Wickenden, VSPC Residential Representative
Nathaniel Vandal, VSPC Power Supply Representative

Agenda:

Presentation by VELCO on the NTA screening of its Berlin substation project
Presentation by PSD on a proposed process to address generation grid constraints

Discussions:

- Presentation by VELCO on the NTA screening of its Berlin substation project
    - VELCO outlined a proposed project at its Berlin substation, together with the results of the NTA screening for this project.
    - The Berlin substation project was characterized as being driven by asset management needs. The project would replace obsolete equipment including, but not limited to, foundations, breakers, and switches. The project would also update the protection and include the installation of a passive oil containment system.
    - Because this is an asset management driven project, it is screened out of consideration for NTA alternatives. There were no objections to this finding.

- Presentation by PSD on a proposed process to address generation grid constraints
    - Presently, generation developers pay to address constraints to new generation on the T&D system. A utility adopting a "strict obligation" could state that, for areas that are presently DG constrained, no additional DG's can be added. This policy may not be ideal in the context of addressing the state's distributed generation policy goals.

- From a societal perspective, as has been evidenced in the SHEI region, distributed resources, including DG, can be a detriment to the system.
- There is a need for enhanced granularity and nuance when siting distributed resources. The issue is how to choreograph a societally least-cost manner of adding load, demand response, generation, and energy efficiency to the system.
- The problem statement could be summarized as finding the least-cost way of unlocking constrained areas while meeting the energy policy goals of the state. Once least-cost method is determined then a decision is made as to whether there is enough value to support the pursuit of identified solution(s). At the end of the day, there may be some constraints that remain.
- This is an economic issue, not a reliability issue.
- One way to address this problem is to explore the usefulness of the following policies and tools:
    i. The locational value of resources including electrification, demand response, generation and energy efficiency
    ii. Timing the value of these four resources
    iii. Storage
    iv. Curtailment
    v. Improvements to the T&D system
- A starting point could be the creation of an ad hoc committee of the VSPC that is open, public and includes all interested parties. The goals would be: better understanding of the problem; developing a similar language with which to discuss the issues; understanding various stakeholder perspectives; and development of potential solutions.
- PSD does not seek to change the charter of the VSPC or to give it the responsibility for integrated distribution system planning.
- Among the benefits of addressing this issue under the umbrella of the VSPC is that VELCO could provide administrative assistance. In addition, the hope is for the creation of an atmosphere that is collaborative, fluid, and avoids posturing.
- This process would take place in parallel with ongoing efforts to address these issues, including DU IRPs.
- The PSD will introduce its proposal at the next VSPC quarterly meeting.

- Next meeting date
    - No date has been set for the next meeting.