



Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2019
Kirk Alumni Center
Middlebury, VT

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a regular meeting on April 24, 2019, at the Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury, Vermont. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the January 23, 2019 minutes, and Hantz Pr sum  seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

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

Policy Updates

Ms. Louiselle recommended that the policy update be postponed to the next regular meeting of the VSPC, as the legislative session would close in July.

Geographical Targeting Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle reported that the subcommittee will meet in late May to review any load-growth driven capital projects, and to determine the need for new reliability plans. Results are to be presented at the July meeting of the VSPC, initiating the next steps of the geographic targeting process.

Forecasting Subcommittee

Mr. Pr sum  reported 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. The subcommittee intends to collaborate with ITRON earlier in the process. Additionally, the subcommittee is in the process of updating its charter, which will be presented to the VSPC when complete.

Generation Constraint Subcommittee

Ed McNamara, Director of the Planning and Energy Resources Division of the Department of Public Service, reported that the subcommittee is developing a charter to clarify its purpose and objectives and will present it to the VSPC when complete. The group intends to focus on attaining a better understanding of measures that can potentially minimize generation constraints. Deliverables for the effort include the development of information to support Vermont power and energy planning processes, as well as a written section in the Long Range Plan documenting the conclusions of the group. The subcommittee expects to complete its analysis prior to VSPC review of the Long-Range Transmission

Plan draft in the first quarter of 2021. Mr. McNamara will serve as chairperson, and the subcommittee is open to any interested parties.

Coordinating Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle welcomed two new members to the VSPC: Nathaniel Vandal, who will serve as the primary Supply representative, and Derek Moretz, who will serve as the alternate Supply representative. An orientation meeting for new members, as well as any others interested in attending, will be held in June. [Note: A VSPC orientation for new public members took place on June 27, 2019.]

Regional Update

Molly Connors, ISO-NE External Affairs Representative for Vermont, reported that ISO-New England developed a draft of its annual energy and summer peak forecast, and informed the group of the Regional System Plan public meeting to be held in September. ISO completed its 2019 Solar PV forecast, which will in the future consider more granular geographic areas. The Forward Capacity Auction held in February (FCA #13) resulted in one of the lowest prices in recent years (\$3.80/kW-month). ISO has proposed changes to the tariff, which would allow ISO-New England to retain a unit for fuel security; additionally, ISO will develop a proposal to change the day-ahead market into a multi-day-ahead market to place greater value on energy reserves, including stored energy. Also under consideration is the creation of three new ancillary markets: Replacement Energy Reserves, Generation Contingency Reserves, and Energy Imbalance Reserves.

Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface Working Group

Doug Smith, Power Supply Director for Green Mountain Power, provided an update on the effort of the distribution utilities (DUs) to mitigate generation curtailment in the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI). It is expected that a limited package of subtransmission solutions could largely mitigate congestion that occurs when all lines are in service with estimated payback periods of two to five years. One of these solutions, the Sheldon Springs AVR, has been installed, for which testing to establish plant capability in the ISO-New England models is in process. Batteries are under evaluation as well, and look best-suited as complementary to subtransmission solutions.

NERC Power System Risks and Cyber Security Presentation

Chris Root, Chief Operating Officer of VELCO, presented on potential risks to the security of the electric system. Amongst others, risks include a changing resource mix, dependence on gas pipelines, lack of operational awareness, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. In order to address the growing number of risks to the system and prevent wide scale blackouts, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has created a number of compliance standards under Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP), with which utilities must comply. However, there are not yet any regulations for internet-connected Distributed Energy Resources (DER).

SPIDER Working Group Presentation

Dan Kopin of Utility Services reported on the proceedings of the System Planning Impacts from Distributed Energy Resources (SPIDER) working group, a NERC stakeholder forum focusing on DERs from transmission-level perspectives. As generation resources are located on the distribution system in

increasingly greater volumes, the implications to power system modeling and how those units affect the transmission system may change. A likely result of this trend will be the need to obtain better data regarding DER deployment from all load-serving entities. Additionally, treatment of underfrequency load shedding schemes, and how DER relates to those schemes, is of great concern to the working group.

Project Updates

Hinesburg: Mr. Litkovitz reported that a D-VAR has been installed at 28 G2 Distribution feeder to support voltage concerns. One of the three cans of the D-VAR was found to have failed, and will be replaced. The Geotargeting Subcommittee will reevaluate the feeder at Hinesburg previously identified as a problem, and present the results of that evaluation to the VSPC.

Substation Condition Assessment Program (SCAP): Mr. Pr sum  reported that the Barre substation asset condition project is underway. The temporary substation, used to maintain reliability during the outage, was completed in the first week of May. Equipment to be replaced at the permanent substation includes devices such as breakers, switches, buses, relays, and others. The refurbishment of the permanent substation is expected to be completed in December.

Transmission Line Refurbishment (TLR): Mr. Pr sum  reported that the TLR program is progressing as scheduled, with plans to replace anywhere from 100 to 200 transmission line structures a year on the basis of structure condition. Through TLR and the program that preceded it, SCI, VELCO has replaced 1500 structures over the last six years.

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

- *Mike Wickenden, Residential representative
- **Tim Duggan, Residential representative (by phone)
- **Jeff Forward, Commercial representative
- *Taylor Newton, Planning representative

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- *Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- **Doug Smith, GMP
- *Cyril Brunner, VEC (by phone)

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

- *Munir Kasti, BED (by phone)
- *Bill Powell, WEC (by phone)

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

(None)

Supply & Demand Resources

- *Dave Westman, EVT
- *Nathaniel Vandal, Supply representative
- **Derek Moretz, Supply representative (by phone)

Non-Voting Members

Ed McNamara, DPS (by phone)

Staff

Shana Louiselle, VELCO
Lou Cecere, VELCO

Guests

Eric Harrold, VELCO
Ryan Darlow, VERA
Dan Kopin, Utility Services
Rip Kirby, DPS
Bernadette Fernandes, VELCO
Billy Coster, ANR
Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
David Carpenter, Facey, Goss & McPhee
Josh Leckey, DRM (by phone)