

VSPC Generation Constraint Subcommittee

Draft Charter, version 3

Background

The Generation Constraint Subcommittee is intended to be a forum for discussion and analysis regarding the development of creative measures to mitigate generation constraints on Vermont's electric distribution and subtransmission networks with due consideration of the transmission system. In particular, the subcommittee will explore strategies that include non-wires alternatives that could cost-effectively minimize generation constraints and provide analysis to inform electric grid, power, and energy planning, including Integrated Resource Plans, the Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan, the Demand Resource Plan, and the state Comprehensive Energy Plan.

Purpose

The Generation Constraint subcommittee shall be an ad-hoc committee of the VSPC tasked with the following actions:

1. Define the concept of a generation constraint and provide data on:
 - a. examples that currently exist in Vermont
 - b. areas of future concern
2. Identify and evaluate effectiveness of potential measures that could be used to minimize generation constraints, including but not limited to:
 - a. Management of resources such as distributed generation, storage, electrification measures, load management and energy efficiency
 - b. time and locational price signals associated with resources identified in 2a
 - c. construction of transmission and distribution infrastructure
 - d. curtailment of generation
 - e. Other operating measures (e.g. block loading)
3. In consideration of the measures identified above that could be used to minimize generation constraints, provide analysis on the following metrics, including but not limited to:
 - a. time base locational effects
 - b. feasibility
 - c. operability
 - d. costs
 - e. resilience
 - f. grid impacts (inverter concerns, TGFOV, under-frequency load-shedding)
 - g. seasonality
 - h. flexibility
 - i. potential/magnitude
 - j. carbon impact

4. Collect data, information and research as needed with regard to aspects of the measures (i.e. proxy areas, technologies, policy drivers, case studies).
5. Provide a venue for discussion and understanding of the opportunities and challenges offered by measures.

This subcommittee will not develop a screening process for applying potential measures, debate cost allocation issues, or attempt to minimize a specific generation constrained area. The subcommittee will not debate cost allocation issues, but may recognize the costs associated with potential measures. The analysis and discussion that occurs in an open and transparent manner will provide value to consideration of any potential generation-constrained areas.

Deliverables

The subcommittee will provide written analysis regarding conclusions of the subcommittee's work and the potential impact on electric grid, power and energy planning, including Integrated Resource Plans, the Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan, the Demand Resource Plan, and the state Comprehensive Energy Plan. The final report will acknowledge areas of non-consensus among the subcommittee.

Decision Making Process

Discussion around the table with effort to reach consensus.

Ground rules

No specific rules, except to be courteous, respectful and fair.

Operating Procedures

This subcommittee will accomplish its objective through the collective efforts of participating members. Meetings will be held quarterly or as called on an as-needed basis. All subcommittee meetings will be noticed at least one week in advance and all agendas, materials, and minutes will be posted to the VSPC website.

The Public Service Department will chair the subcommittee and VSPC staff will facilitate meetings. Both representatives will take responsibility for organizing, operating and documenting the meetings of this subcommittee, consistent with the expectations and procedural requirements of the VSPC.

All meetings will be operated in an open, free-exchange atmosphere. Any member is free to introduce and discuss whatever topics s/he deems is appropriate to fulfilling the aforementioned objectives, provided that: (1) best efforts are made to provide notice of the topic prior to the meeting, and (2) time permits. The Chair, or subcommittee appointee, will represent the subcommittee before the VSPC or other groups. The acceptance of final conclusions will be subject to a majority vote of the attending members, although best efforts will be made to establish a consensus.

Lifespan

The subcommittee will meet until the identified deliverable is complete in time for the 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. At that time, the VSPC shall discuss the need for the subcommittee to convene beyond April 2021.