

# V S P C

Vermont System  
Planning Committee

**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**October 16, 2019**  
**Killington Grand Hotel**  
**Killington, VT**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a regular meeting on October 16, 2019, at the Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, Vermont. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Mike Wickenden moved to approve the July 17, 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.

## **Coordinating Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle reviewed the preliminary 2020 VSPC meeting dates, of which the summer and fall meetings have not yet been confirmed. The next VSPC quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 29 at the Delta Hotel in South Burlington. The 202 VSPC meeting schedule is as follows:

January 29, 2020—Delta Hotel, South Burlington

April 29, 2020—Middlebury Inn, Middlebury

July 15, 2020—TBD

October 21, 2020—TBD

A draft version of the 2019 VSPC annual report will be circulated to the VSPC ahead of the January meeting, and will be filed no later than February 15, 2020.

## **Geographical Targeting Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle reported that the Geographical Targeting Subcommittee reviewed the geotargeting recommendation letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC). Ms. Louiselle reviewed the draft letter, including in the VSPC packet, and asked for questions and comments before moving to approval of the draft as distributed. The recommendations will be filed with the PUC by November 1, 2019. [Note: the letter was filed on October 29, 2019.]

Michael Wickenden moved and Kim Jones seconded approval of the GT recommendations, which were approved without objection.

## Transportation and Climate Initiative

Peter Walke, Deputy Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, discussed the ongoing work of the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration of 13 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states that seek to develop the clean energy economy, improve transportation and reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector through a cap and invest program. The output of that work will be a strawman proposal for such a model, and an assessment of potential economic impacts. States will then decide whether or not to join the cap and invest market. A draft memorandum of understanding that would bind the states together will be released in December. Comments on the initiative's framework can be submitted on the TCI website, <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/main-menu/tci-regional-policy-design-stakeholder-input-form>.

## Forecasting Subcommittee

Mr. Pr sum  reported the Forecasting Subcommittee met September 10 to discuss the load forecast approach for the 2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan. The subcommittee will begin the forecasting process earlier this year to deliver a final forecast in June 2020. The subcommittee expects to present better-defined inputs, data sources, and overall approach at the January VSPC meeting.

Efficiency Vermont presented their Demand Resource Plan to the subcommittee as part of their stakeholder outreach in advance of their December filing with the PUC. The Plan sets a flat budget for the next three-year period, and determines which types of measures and program will be targeted and at what cost. The Plan proposes a new metric focused on greenhouse gas reductions and an increased focus on weatherization, utility partnerships, and GHG reduction strategies. Efficiency Vermont is asking for comments by the end of October.

## Historical Load Presentation

Mr. Pr sum  presented historical data on Vermont peak loads over the last 30 years, demonstrating that Vermont's peaks have trended downwards for more than a decade, initiated by the 2008 economic recession, and sustained by investments in energy efficiency and behind the meter solar PV.

Data presented for the 2019 summer peak load day showed that the Vermont peak occurred after dark, and that for the first time a combination of behind-the-meter hydro and battery storage played a significant role in reducing the nighttime peak. As distributed energy resources increase and offer advanced grid services to target peak demand reductions, it will be important for the VSPC to understand the scale and impact of those resources on the system in order to produce more accurate load forecasts. The presentation is available on the VSPC website.

## Policy Update

**Act 62 Workshop:** TJ Poor, Director of Efficiency and Energy Services for the Public Service Department, reported that the PUC held the first workshop under the Act 62 investigation on September 24, to address current statutory policies and goals guiding Vermont's energy programs and the portfolio of energy programs and services currently available to Vermonters, as well as establishing policies and goals to modernize Vermont's efficiency efforts. A second workshop is scheduled on October 25. The PUC's preliminary report is due to the legislature by January 2021.

**Renewable Energy Standard (Rule 4.400):** Mr. Poor reported that the Renewable Energy Standard, as implemented by Docket 8550, was undergoing conversion to a PUC rule. A draft of the rule was developed in the spring, with subsequent comments addressing technical details on Tiers I and II. Additional comments are due by November 1, and the revised rule is likely to be submitted by the end of the year.

**EEU Regulation EVT DRP:** Dave Westman, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Efficiency Vermont (EVT), reported that a proceeding initiated in 2018 to evaluate the regulation of energy efficiency utilities (EEUs) was still under way, and had consisted of a series of workshops on Demand Resource Plans, finances, and proposals for governance structures. The PUC issued an order identifying EEUs as their own fiscal agents, effective January 1, 2020. With this change in place, distribution utilities will make payments directly to EVT, saving ratepayers the costs of the line of credit formerly needed. Changes to the DRP process are now analogous to a traditional utility cost-of-service rate case. Under this new system, EEUs will submit a plan for three years, with the next Demand Resource Plans to be filed between in December 2019 and approved by August of 2020.

## Project Updates

**Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface:** Ms. Jones reported that the Lowell-Morrisville Project testimony was currently under review, and that GMP hoped to complete the Act 248 filing by the end of October. The project will consist of replacement of the transformer at the Lowell substation, reconductoring of the B20 line, and reconductoring of a 1.5 mile segment of the B22 line.

**Hinesburg:** Ms. Jones reported that the DVAR has been installed and is in service. GMP is still working with Waitsfield Telephone to resolve interference between the DVAR and Waitsfield Telephone equipment. The Hinesburg area consisted of about 6 MW of load in 2013, but recent projections show only about 5.5 MW. GMP plans to evaluate summer and winter peak loads to see if there is load growth that may necessitate additional reliability considerations at Hinesburg.

**New Haven Operations Facility:** Peter W. Lind, Senior Project Manager for VELCO, presented a newly proposed project to construct an operations facility at the site of the VELCO New Haven substation. The facility will serve as a back-up control center, an operator training facility, a data center, and incident command center, a secondary office building, and an office location for utility meetings. The facility is expected to be commissioned by August 2022. The VSPC deemed that it was not necessary to perform an NTA screening analysis for this project.

## Regional Update

Molly Connors, External Affairs Representative from ISO-New England, reported that the summer of 2019 in New England exhibited the lowest electric usage of the last 16 summers. ISO released its 2020 annual work plan outlining the major priorities and activities for the coming year. The plan is primarily focused on developing a market solution to improve energy security needs, and has received an extension to file a proposal with FERC until April 15, 2020. It is anticipated that the day-ahead energy will be replaced with a multi-day-ahead market, and that the day-ahead market would additionally include ancillary services.

Ms. Connors reported that the Boston Needs Assessment has been completed, with time-sensitive and non-time-sensitive needs identified. In order to address those non-time-sensitive needs, ISO will issue its first competitive RFP in December.

DRAFT

## Attendance

\* Indicates voting member

\*\* Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

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

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- \*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

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

- Kim Jones, GMP
- \*Cyril Brunner, VEC (by phone)

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

- \*Munir Kasti, BED (by phone)

### Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

(none)

### Supply & Demand Resources

- \*Dave Westman, EVT
- \*Nathaniel Vandal, Supply representative

### Non-Voting Members

(none)

### Staff

- Shana Louiselle, VELCO
- Lou Cecere, VELCO

### Guests

- Eric Harrold, VELCO
- Bernadette Fernandes, VELCO
- Julia Leopold, VPPSA
- Dan Kopin, Utility Services
- Peter Walke, ANR
- David Carpenter, Green Lantern Solar
- Tom Dunn, VELCO
- Peter Lind, VELCO
- Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
- Ryan Darlow, VERA (by phone)
- Maria Fischer, DPS (by phone)
- Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics (by phone)
- Jake Morris, Encore (by phone)
- TJ Poor, DPS (by phone)
- Molly Connors, ISO-NE (by phone)