

Vermont System Planning Committee
Forecasting Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2020 | 1:00 pm
Green Mountain Power, Montpelier

In attendance:

- Melissa Bailey, VPPSA
- Jay Pilliod, EVT
- Maria Fischer, DPS
- Eric Fox, ITRON
- Hantz Pr sum , VELCO
- Lou Cecere, VELCO
- Shana Louiselle, VELCO

On the phone:

- Mike Leach, BED
- Derek Moretz, Supply alternate
- Mike Russo, ITRON
- Leigh Seddon, EAN
- Kim Jones, GMP
- Andrew Quint, GMP
- Dave Westman, EVT
- Cyril Brunner, VEC
- Jeff Forward, REV

ITRON Presentation – Eric Fox presented on ITRON’s planned efforts to create a forecast for use in the 2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan. Historical solar capacity data by zone based on town level data was provided by the Department of Public Service, such that the solar models can be built on a zonal basis. ITRON is looking for direction from stakeholders in developing scenario assumptions (such as EV charging patterns, heat pump load shapes, storage deployment and usage, zonal economic saturation of solar, land use restrictions, and Comprehensive Energy Plan goals). It is planned to incorporate hourly load profiles for EVs and heat pumps, as in the past, but also to make these shapes temperature-sensitive. Another new addition in the forecast for this cycle is a process to reconstitute load and sales accounting for historical hourly behind the meter solar output. ITRON has received AMI data from two utilities thus far, and would be greatly aided by receiving AMI data from other utilities as well.

Analysis of long-term weather trends show that the number of cooling degree days are staying relatively constant, while the number of heating degree days are declining quickly. There has been some growth, however, in the number of cooling degree days that occur in shoulder months. Questions remain with regard to the method by which battery storage is to be modeled. Any input from utilities with battery operating experience would be helpful to ITRON. Also helpful is stakeholder input on appropriate assumptions around incentives for residential and commercial solar systems, both from the state and the federal government. No constraints on residential or commercial solar growth are assumed, and special considerations will have to be made for zones that are expected to experience grid constraints. ITRON is looking for general input on their forecasting process; any comments should be directed to Hantz Pr sum .

Generation Constraint – Members from the Generation Constraint subcommittee were invited to this Forecasting Subcommittee meeting to discuss potential data forecasting efforts for the Vergennes area, which is being used as an example for better understanding the generation constraint phenomenon. The group discussed the merits of developing a local forecast for Vergennes, or disaggregating the state forecast down to Vergennes. It was noted that ITRON has been able to make use of more localized information in order to map data to Planning zones, and additional discussion took place around potential use of AMI data with respect to geographical locations. It was concluded that performing a forecast specifically for the Vergennes area would yield more accurate data, with EVT to provide efficiency, EV, heat pumps and load flexibility forecasts.

Next meeting –

- The next meeting of the subcommittee will take place in January, 2020
- ITRON to create list of items for input from stakeholders
- ITRON to present preliminary forecasts and assumptions by end of March
- DPS to present comparison of various load and/or generation forecasts