



**Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2020  
Delta Hotel  
Burlington, VT**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a regular meeting on January 29, 2020, at the Delta Hotel, Burlington, Vermont. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Michael Wickenden moved to approve the October 16, 2019 minutes, and Bill Powell seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

### **Introductions**

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

### **Forecasting Subcommittee**

Hantz Pr sum , Manager of Transmission Planning for VELCO, reported that the subcommittee met on November 7 to review ITRON's forecasting approach and discuss the technology trends and policy considerations to include in the development of the 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Additionally, Efficiency Vermont presented an update to their Demand Resource Plan. The subcommittee reviewed and approved the updated charter, and also discussed subcommittee's work plan to complete the final load forecast by June.

### **Generation Constraint Subcommittee**

Ed McNamara, Director of the Planning and Energy Resources Division of the Department of Public Service, reported that the Generation Constraint subcommittee is collaborating with Green Mountain Power to analyze data on the Vergennes substation as illustrative of a distribution constraint. Items of note will be determining how much load is controllable, output curves for distributed generation, and net load. Planned collaboration between the Generation Constraint and Forecasting subcommittees will consist of discussion of forecasts specific to the Vergennes area for various factors impacting loads. The next subcommittee meeting is expected to take place in March.

### **Coordinating Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle confirmed the dates and locations for the remaining VSPC meetings in 2020, as listed below.

- April 29, Middlebury Inn, Middlebury
- July 15, Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe
- October 21, Killington Grand Hotel, Killington

## Annual Report

Ms. Louiselle reported that the draft annual report has been sent to the full committee for review.

**Mr. Newton moved and Mr. Powell seconded approval of the draft annual report. The motion was adopted without objections.**

[Note: the report was filed on January 31 and is available on the VSPC website.]

## Regional Update

Molly Connors, ISO New England (ISO-NE) External Affairs Representative, reported that ISO has released the 2019 Environmental and Emissions Trends report.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Forward Capacity Auction is scheduled to take place February 3, to procure resources for the 2023-2024 capacity commitment period, with the inclusion of a new export-constrained nested zone in Maine.

On December 20, the ISO-NE issued an RFP for projects to address transmission needs found in the Boston area. Applications for projects to satisfy the reliability requirement have a deadline of March 4, and final selection will take place in summer 2021. The Public Policy Transmission Upgrade process began again on January 14, as required every three years. Input on state and federal policies are directed to the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) and input regarding local public policies is submitted to ISO-NE. The Distributed Generation Forecast Working Group agenda for its February 14 meeting will include discussion of the 2020 draft PV forecast, the final draft of which will be issued on March 20. Mr. McNamara noted that the Load Forecasting Committee, in their work to forecast electric demand from electric vehicles and heat pumps, are assuming that the load shapes for these technologies are unaffected by control regimes or rate incentives.

## Rate Design Initiative

Riley Allen, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, presented the progress of the Rate Design Initiative, a DOE-funded project designed to examine the potential for the delivery of electricity services through innovative rate designs. The project will result in a modeling framework to test various rate designs and their impact on utility KPIs and load shapes, and to evaluate the efficacy of using price signals and incentives to better align load behavior with true system costs. Several workshops will be held for participants to work with the tool, and a final report will be issued in June or July. Desired outcomes from use of the tool include: cost containment, renewables integration, enhanced environmental performance, better load factor, more flexible load, reduction in average system costs, and new business models for the energy sector.

## Policy Update

**All Fuels Utility (Act 62):** TJ Poor, Director of Efficiency and Energy Services for the Department of Public Service, reported that three PUC workshops and several filings (case no. 19-2956) took place in the fall

of 2019 to evaluate the potential of allowing efficiency utilities to address all fuels. A preliminary report by the Commission was due to the Legislature on January 15, with the final report due by January 2021. Further proceedings will take place this year.

**EEU Regulation and EVT DRP:** Dave Westman, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Efficiency Vermont, reported that, as of January 24, all three efficiency utilities had submitted their Demand Resource Plans. EVT had conducted a presentation to the Commission, the slides for which are available online in the Demand Resource Plan case. The proceeding is presently in discovery at the Department, and will then move on to testimony, all of which will take place over the first part of 2020. Dave Carpenter remarked that the Legislature was presently considering whether to revise the Renewable Energy Standard, and brought three cases to the attention of the committee: the biennial update of the net-metering program (case no. 20-0097-INV); the proposed revisions to the PUC interconnection rule 5.100 (case no. 19-0855-RULE); and the proposed PUC Rule 4.400 (case no. 19-2568-RULE), which would make the Renewable Energy Standard a PUC rule.

**Electric Vehicle Regulation (Act 59):** Tom Lyle, Program and Policy Manager for Burlington Electric Department, reported that in December, the Commission submitted the second of three reports due to the Legislature related to Act 59, this one specifically addressing several questions posed by the Legislature. The Commission recommended that the distribution utilities should not be made to impose any kind of EV charger tariff at the present, though it may be appropriate in the future, noting the costs associated with billing for a new fee. They also recommended that the DUs not impose time-based tariffs. Presently, BED and GMP have time-based EV rates. The report is available on the ePUC site (case no. 19-3009-INV.)

**Other policies:** Ms. Louiselle reported on several items that the Legislature was taking under consideration: the Global Warming Solutions Act, which would adopt the Comprehensive Energy Plan goals as requirements and make the Agency of Natural Resources responsible for meeting that standard; the Transportation Climate Initiative, with its final MOU expected in the Spring, at which point Governor Scott will decide whether or not Vermont will join; broadband deployment, with the potential to use electric utility infrastructure and modifying pole attachment rules; incentives for electric vehicle purchasing, consumer education, and support services; and a grid optimization proposal that would support start-ups and make research and development work eligible for tax credits.

## Energy Storage Regulation

Anne Margolis, Director of Renewable Energy Development for the Department of Public Service, informed the committee of the Department's recommendations to the Legislature around energy storage associated with Act 31. In 2017, the Department issued a report under Act 53 to the Legislature that summarized existed storage initiatives, issues, and opportunities to encourage adoption of energy storage. The Act 31 report issued on January 9, 2020 elaborates on how best to provide a clear path for permitting, to ensure no adverse impact to electric infrastructure and ratepayers, and to ensure public and environmental health. In the report, the Department recommends clarification of the Commission's jurisdiction, an extension of existing waivers to some storage installations, a requirement of Section 248 review for projects exceeding 100 kW, among other items. The report is available on the Department of Public Service website.

## Project Updates

**Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface:** Dan Bellarmino reported that GMP had completed its §248 filing (case no. 19-4464-PET) for the Lowell-Morrisville project. The project consists 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. Construction on the B20 line will commence in the summer of this year, and construction on the B22 line is expected to commence in January 2021, with the project to be completed in early summer 2021.

**Hinesburg:** GMP filed a reliability plan addressing a potential deficiency on the 8-mile distribution line serving the town of Hinesburg from the GMP Charlotte substation. Consideration of available solutions, paired with lower than expected load growth, led GMP to select a DVAR (a voltage control device) as the solution. Since installation of the DVAR, no voltage problems due to motor starting load have been observed.

## Attendance

\* Indicates voting member

\*\* Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

- \*Michael Wickenden, Residential representative
- \*\*Jeff Forward, Commercial representative
- \*Taylor Newton, Planning representative

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- \*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

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

- Jeff Monder, GMP
- \*Cyril Brunner, VEC

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

- \*Munir Kasti, BED
- \*Bill Powell, WEC

### 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

Dan Kopin, Utility Services  
Dan Bellarmino, GMP  
Paul Lambert, EVT  
Tom Lyle, BED  
Julia Leopold, VPPSA  
Andy Elliston, BED  
David Carpenter, Green Lantern Solar  
Riley Allen, DPS  
Molly Connors, ISO-NE (by phone)  
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO (by phone)  
Anne Margolis, DPS (by phone)