

Vermont System Planning Committee  
Forecasting Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
April 1, 2020 | 10:00 am  
Virtual Conference

**In virtual attendance:**

- Michael Wickenden, Residential representative
- Bill Powell, WEC
- Dave Westman, EVT
- Eric Fox, ITRON
- Maria Fischer, DPS
- Freddie Hall, BED
- Jay Pilliod, EVT
- Mike Leach, BED
- Oleg Moskatov, ITRON
- Mike Russo, ITRON
- Shawn Enterline, VPPSA
- Shana Louiselle, VELCO
- Hantz Pr sum , VELCO
- Lou Cecere, VELCO

**VELCO Load Presentation** – Hantz Pr sum  presented on the changes in state load observed by VELCO as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Several of Governor Scott’s orders in response to the crisis may have impacted loads, including the closing of schools, restrictions on bars and restaurants, encouragement to work from home, and the reduction of in-person services. Overall, there has been about a 5 to 6% decrease in loads due to COVID-19, though these difference are difficult in the peaks of individual days. As the crisis continues, there may yet be greater reductions in load.

Mike Leach noted that there was a noticeable dip in loads in the BED service territory from 2019 to 2020 over the last three weeks of March, even with comparable weather patterns between the two periods.

**ITRON Presentation** – Eric Fox presented on ITRON’s efforts to create a forecast for use in the 2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan. As a result of COVID-19, the state load shape for a weekday has begun to resemble a typical weekend day. Making adjustments for the changes expected due to COVID-19, ITRON is continuing work in reconstituting load by Planning zone to account

for solar PV. SPEED resources have been accounted for in the reconstitution, but other non-PV resources have been excluded from this calculation.

Vermont has considerably more electric customers than households. The leading explanation for this phenomenon is the existence of a large number of second homes within the state. Growth in electric customers is expected to number about 20,000 between now and 2030, with relatively little change through to 2040. With LEDs becoming increasingly pervasive in the residential market, end-use intensity will continue to decrease. However, it may begin to increase in the 2030s once the effect of LEDs is fully incorporated. Commercial end-use intensity is expected to decrease for the foreseeable future as LEDs make their way into that sector.

ITRON expects to finish the base case forecast in April, and plans to focus on heat pumps and EVs in doing so. Information that will aid them in their effort include data on forecasted growth of those two technologies from program administrators, and supplementary population and economic forecasts from Vermont sources. ITRON also plans to reach out to distribution utilities for data on planned electrification work.

**Next meeting –**

- The next meeting of the subcommittee will take place in June, 2020