

Vermont System Planning Committee  
Geotargeting Subcommittee  
May 28, 2020  
Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the prior meeting of the Geographic Targeting subcommittee were approved by email.

**Administrative**

Shana Louiselle informed the subcommittee that TJ Poor had offered to become chair, which was accepted by the group. Additionally, there were no load growth-related projects for NTA screening review, pending confirmation from a couple of distribution utilities. Green Mountain Power, Vermont Electric Co-op, and VELCO to provide a review of ongoing capital projects.

**Green Mountain Power**

GMP does not have any projects driven by load growth and eligible for avoidance by NTAs; however, Steve Litkovitz provided an overview of reliability projects that GMP is pursuing, as well as previously reviewed projects. None of these projects met the criteria for NTA analysis.

GMP presently has planned capital projects at the Ascutney substation (scheduled for 2022) and at the Londonderry substation (scheduled for 2023). Neither of these projects are load growth-related, but rather to address reliability and asset management.

The Ascutney project will include the in-kind replacement of aged circuit breakers, as well as a voltage transformer (VT) and various relays.

The Londonderry project will include the in-kind replacement of aged circuit breakers and relays.

Kim Jones noted that a project deferred by GMP, a new substation in the Dover-Haystack area, is potentially related to load growth. However, given the business uncertainty of load growth occurring in the area, GMP has decided not to pursue the project at this time. If necessary, the project would provide a feeder back up for the Dover and Wilmington substations, amongst other reliability benefits.

**Vermont Electric Coop**

VEC does not have any projects that have screened in for NTAs; however, Cyril Brunner provided an overview of reliability projects that VEC is pursuing.

Mr. Brunner noted that the four projects presented are the same as those presented last year, and none are related to load growth. Each project will address asset management, reliability, or maintenance concerns. The Sheldon Springs substation is proposed to be rebuilt in-place to replace old equipment and to enhance its operational flexibility; this project will proceed despite the withdrawal from the ISO-NE interconnection queue of a nearby proposed 20 MW solar plant by NextEra.

### **Washington Electric Coop**

Bill Powell reported that WEC has no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

### **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority**

VPPSA reported by email that there are no projects that would trigger the NTA screen. The projects being pursued are asset condition and reliability related.

### **Burlington Electric**

Burlington Electric reported by phone that there are not projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

### **Stowe Electric**

Stowe Electric reported by email that there are no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

### **Vermont Electric Power Company**

VELCO does not have any projects that can be avoided or deferred by the use of NTAs.

Hantz Pr sum  provided an overview of the NTA screening of VELCO's Florence and Irasburg Substation Condition Asset projects.

The Florence project will include: rebuilding of the present 46 kV radial bus into a four-breaker ring bus, replacement of a 115 kV circuit switcher and 46kV breakers, replacement of the 46 kV capacitor, and replacement of the control building and protection and controls systems. The preliminary cost estimate is about \$15 million. This cost is comparable to that estimated for replacing the radial bus in kind.

The Irasburg project will include: replacement of the 115 kV circuit switcher with a circuit breaker, replacement of 46 kV breakers and disconnects, and other metering, protection, and control equipment. The preliminary cost estimate for this project is about \$4.5 million.

Because these are asset management driven projects, they both screened out of consideration for NTA alternatives. There were no objections to this finding.

### **Evolution of Geographic Targeting Subcommittee**

The subcommittee discussed the current process guiding the subcommittee's work and whether improvements or modifications should be made. The group provided feedback that the current process works, and that the subcommittee should stay informed of the Load Forecasting and Generation Constraint Subcommittees in case there is overlap in roles. The group agreed it would be valuable to review the requirements outlined in the Docket 7081 MOU and the Screening Framework and Guidelines in Docket 7873.