



**Draft Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2020  
Virtual Conference**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a virtual conference on July 15, 2020. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Michael Wickenden moved to approve the April 29, 2020 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.

### **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 met on May 7 and discussed load management, storage and curtailment as strategies to minimize generation constraints. The subcommittee formed three working groups to evaluate the performance characteristics of each strategy, explore implementation challenges and the short and long-term potential. The working groups will meet in August.

### **Geotargeting Subcommittee**

TJ Poor, Director of Efficiency and Energy Services of the Department of Public Service, reported that the subcommittee met on May 28 to complete the non-transmission alternative (NTA) screening process for identified subtransmission reliability issues. No new issues were found to have “screened in” for any further analysis. The VELCO Florence and Irasburg substation projects were also reviewed; as they are asset condition projects, and cannot be avoided by use of an NTA, both screened out of the process.

### **Coordinating Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle reported that the October 21 meeting of the VSPC is presently scheduled to occur at the Killington Mountain Resort. However, if an in-person meeting at that time is not possible or not safe due to a need to continue physical distancing practices, the meeting would likely be moved to a virtual conference.

### **Forecasting Subcommittee**

Hantz Pr sum , Manager of Transmission Planning for VELCO, presented the load forecast for the 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. The forecast is built using a bottoms-up approach incorporating end-use intensities, state economic projections, the net effects of energy efficiency, and long-term

weather trends. Itron produced base energy and demand forecasts, as well as technology forecasts (solar PV, heat pump, and electric vehicle loads) using three scenarios – low, expected and high. The forecast will be finalized later this month after zonal forecasts, and the latest economic outlook, which will include the effects of COVID-19, are complete.

## 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan scope

Lou Cecere, Transmission Planner for VELCO, provided an overview of the transmission planning process, a timeline for the development of the 2021 long-range plan, and the planning criteria and study assumptions relevant to the plan. Mr. Cecere presented potential scenarios that the plan will consider including high in-state distributed generation and high electrification. The analysis of the plan will begin this summer and fall, and a draft report will be provided to the VSPC in January.

## Regional Update

Molly Connors, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, reported that NEPOOL, ISO-NE and the New England State Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) launched a new stakeholder process (Transition to the Future Grid) to explore potential wholesale regional market changes that would be appropriate for future grid needs. Currently, the group is designing and conducting a study to help identify any operational and reliability needs for the region's power system in the future. If needs are identified, a gap analysis will be conducted to determine whether there are any market deficits that need to be addressed to assure the continued reliable operation of the system. Based on the gap analysis results, potential wholesale regional market approaches would be explored.

Ms. Connors also provided an overview of planning studies being discussed at the Planning Advisory Committee, including the competitive RFP for Boston ("Boston 2028 RFP), transmission planning for public policy, and two economic off-shore wind studies. The 2019 NESCOE Economic Study is complete and available on ISO-NE's website and the 2019 Anbaric Economic study is underway.

## Project Updates

**FERC/NERC Cybersecurity Updates:** Dan Kopin from Utility Services reported that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) as to whether some of its reliability standards regarding cybersecurity must be enhanced and whether the focus of its standards must change due to the threat of coordinating cyberattack targeting geographically distributed generation. FERC is seeking comments from grid participants on best practices.

In addition to FERC's NOI, the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) launched a new partnership to mitigate cybersecurity risks and consequences in solar energy developments. An advisory group will work with the Department of Energy to explore cybersecurity requirements that should be adopted for a distributed generation resource mix.

## Attendance

\* Indicates voting member

\*\* Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

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

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- \*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

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

- \*Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- \*\*Doug Smith, GMP
- \*Cyril Brunner

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

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

### Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

- \*Melissa Bailey, VPPSA
- \*Steve Fitzhugh, Northfield Electric Department

### Supply & Demand Resources

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

### Non-Voting Members

- Ed McNamara, DPS
- TJ Poor, DPS

### Staff

- Shana Louiselle, VELCO
- Lou Cecere, VELCO

### Guests

- Andy Elliston, BED
- Anne Margolis, DPS
- Brad Williams, BED
- Brian Evans Mungeon, Utility Services
- Dan Kopin, Utility Services
- Dave Carpenter, REV
- Jay Pilliod, EVT
- Jeff Fenn, Emera
- Jeff Monder, GMP
- Kim Jones, GMP
- Marc Allen, VELCO
- Maria Fischer, DPS
- Michael Lazorchak, Stowe Electric
- Molly Connors, ISO-NE
- Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics
- Olivia Campbell Andersen, REV
- Philip Picotte, DPS
- Ryan Darlow, VERA
- Tom Dunn, VELCO
- Warren Coleman, MMR