



**Draft Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2020
Virtual Conference**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a virtual conference on October 28, 2020. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the July 15, 2020 minutes, and Michael Wickenden seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

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

Geotargeting Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle reported that the Geographical Targeting Subcommittee reviewed the geotargeting recommendation letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC). Ms. Louiselle reviewed the draft letter and asked for questions and comments before moving to approval of the draft as distributed.

Bill Powell moved and Steve Litkovitz seconded approval of the GT recommendations, which were approved without objection.

The recommendations will be filed with the PUC by January 15, 2021. [Note: the letter was filed on November 16, 2020.]

Coordinating Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle reviewed the preliminary 2021 VSPC meeting dates that will continue to be held remotely in response to COVID-19 protocols. Additional discussion on the subject to take place later in 2021. The 2021 meeting schedule was altered to better account for NEPOOL committee meetings in order to avoid conflicts on the part of committee members and attendees. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for January 27. The 2021 meeting schedule is as follows:

January 27, 2021 – virtual meeting

April 21, 2021 – virtual meeting

July 21, 2021 – TBD

October 27, 2021 – TBD

Forecasting Subcommittee

Hantz Pr sum , Manager of Transmission Planning for VELCO, reported that the subcommittee has not met since June, as the work for the long-term forecast has been completed. Itron, the consultant retained by VELCO to perform this work, has completed the forecast report, and which will be posted to the VSPC website prior to the January meeting. An update to the forecast report included the extreme weather (90/10) data utilized to perform the Long-Range Transmission Plan. The VSPC will have 60 days to review and comment on the LRTP report in early 2021.

Generation Constraint Subcommittee

The Generation Constraint Subcommittee consists of three subgroups focusing on different topics – Load Management, Storage, and Curtailment, which are led by TJ Poor, Anne Margolis, and Ed McNamara of the DPS, respectively. These groups have met independently, and also as a whole, to discuss the frequency and magnitude of generation constraints at the Vergennes substation. A topic of particular interest for each group has been the potential establishment of a communications framework and associated protocols to enable the necessary control technologies for each of these subgroups. The three subgroups will continue to meet on an as-needed basis.

Behind-the-meter Generation Reconstitution

Frank Etori, Director of ISO Relations for VELCO, provided an overview of the ongoing efforts at ISO-NE to properly reconstitute behind-the-meter (BTM) generation in load calculations, and the potential implications for Vermont. Transmission costs rose from \$870 million in 2008 to \$2.4 billion in 2019, which corresponds to about 20% of regional electric costs, allocated by state based on monthly peak load. The Internal Market Monitor (IMM) has determined that the Regional Network Load (RNL) used in this allocation must be reconstituted to account for BTM generation, although it is not currently defined in the tariff. Their recommendation is that BTM generation be defined to include generation behind the retail meter, connected to the distribution system, and intended to serve host load, with which by definition a large amount of present distributed energy resources (DERs) do not conform.

The IMM noted that there is potentially widespread noncompliance with the load reconstitution requirements, or at least inconsistent application, such that under-reporting of the RNL lowers transmission costs to a party owning BTM generation, and over-allocates to other parties. While it is clear that small-scale BTM generation can benefit the system by reducing peak loads and thus the need for transmission infrastructure, IMM states that, under the tariff as currently written, it should not be monetized.

Potential options to account for this noncompliance could include modification of stakeholder practices, a review of the tariff to provide relevant definitions, and a review of transmission rate structures to account for the benefits of BTM generation. Such a review of the rate structures could be comprised of an allowance for BTM generators to reduce load, or to clearly define which types of BTM generators must be accounted for in load reconstitution. Vermont stakeholders will continue to review and discuss the issue as it progresses.

Regional Update

Molly Connors, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, reported that most ISO employees are continuing to work remotely, and are able to adequately perform their duties in maintaining grid reliability. ISO found that summer loads were higher than expected given the large amounts of people working from home, such that the load forecast reflected business-as-usual loads.

In its first competitive RFP for a reliability solution, ISO-NE selected the Greater Boston Ready Path Solution from NGRID and Eversource for the Greater Boston RFP. Thirty-six different proposals were submitted by eight different developers. The Greater Boston Ready Path Solution was the lowest bid at \$49 million, with the next least expensive project coming in at \$90 million. High among the list of reasons this project was selected was its planned availability prior to the retirement of the Mystic generation facility.

Three planned Southeast Massachusetts and Rhode Island projects have been cancelled based on decreases in forecasted load levels. Forward Capacity Auction 15 (FCA #15) is to take place in February with 250 MW of generation exiting the market; it was determined that there is not a need to retain this generation for reliability purposes. Mystic units 8 and 9 are no longer needed for reliability, and will be deemed retired.

Transportation Climate Initiative

Johanna Miller, Energy & Climate Program Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, updated the committee on the progress of the Transportation Climate Initiative. Modeled after the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the effort aims to implement a cap and trade program among the Northeastern states for greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The timeline for work on completing the initial proposal has shifted due to the pandemic, but analysis and modeling work has continued. The memorandum of understanding among the party states and the proposed program are to be rolled out after the November election, with the final MOU made public in early December. States participating in the development of the initiative may choose to sign on to the final agreement, or to opt out.

Act 62 All Fuels Efficiency

Melissa Bailey, Manager of Government and Member Relations for the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, reported that the PUC is considering the creation of an all-fuels efficiency program via Act 62, or the expansion of existing programs. Such an expansion would allow Efficiency Vermont, traditionally focused on electrical energy efficiency, to begin work in the transportation and thermal sectors. The program would identify specific technologies to be leveraged, such as demand response, flexible resources, energy storage, renewable fuels, weatherization, and others to reduce consumer costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Efficiency Vermont Demand Resource Plan

Dave Westman, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Efficiency Vermont, updated the committee on the status of the Efficiency Vermont's Demand Resource Plan. Having received approval for the plan from the PUC, EVT has turned to work on the compliance filing. Two new performance metrics included in the plan are greenhouse gas emissions reduced at electrical generating facilities and combustion sources,

and “fugitive” greenhouse gas emissions reduced (such as those emitted by a leak of liquid refrigerant.) EVT continues their work with Vermont distribution utilities on various pilot programs, and is spending \$3.4 million to support new flexible load programs. The approved plan includes a lower budget with flat rates, but is lower than in the last three-year planning period. The 2024-2027 budget is planned to return to former spending levels, and has been preliminarily approved by the PUC for planning purposes.

DRAFT

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

- *Michael Wickenden, Residential representative
- **Tim Duggan, Residential representative
- *Michael Kirick, Commercial representative
- **Jeff Forward, Commercial representative
- *Johanna Miller, Environmental representative
- *Taylor Newtown, Planning representative

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- *Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- **Dough Smith, GMP
- *Cyril Brunner, VEC

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

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

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

- *Melissa Bailey, VPPSA

Supply & Demand Resources

- *Dave Westman, EVT
- **Derek Moretz, Supply representative

Non-Voting Members

- Ed McNamara, DPS
- TJ Poor, DPS

Staff

- Shana Louiselle, VELCO
- Lou Cecere, VELCO

Guests

- Andrea Cohen, VEC
- Andrew Quint, GMP
- Anne Margolis, DPS
- Brian Evans Mungeon, Utility Services
- Dave Carpenter, REV
- Ryan Darlow, VERA
- Chris Root, VELCO
- Frank Etori, VELCO
- Jay Pilliod, VEIC
- Kerrick Johnson, VELCO
- Kim Jones, GMP
- Marc Allen, VELCO
- Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
- Michael Lazorchak, SED
- Molly Connors, ISO-NE
- Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics
- Olivia Campbell Andersen, REV
- William Jerome