



**Draft Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021
Virtual Conference**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a virtual conference on January 27, 2021. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the October 28, 2020 minutes, and Mike Wickenden seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

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

Annual Report

Ms. Louiselle reported that the draft VSPC annual report has been sent to the full committee for review. **Mr. Litkovitz moved and Johanna Miller seconded approval of the draft annual report. The motion was adopted without objection.**

[Note: the report was filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission on February 8, 2021 and is available on the VSPC website.]

2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan

Lou Cecere and Marc Allen, Transmission Planning Engineers for VELCO, presented the assumptions, forecasts, results, and conclusions of the 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Draft Plan. In a newly observed trend, there is projected near-term growth of peak loads due to electrification in the heating and transportation sectors. Despite this, there are no load-related transmission deficiencies within the ten-year horizon. Operational measures will continue to be used to ensure reliability, including the use of phase shifting transformers and load shedding less than 150 MW in magnitude, per regional practices. It is expected that, if adequate load management measures exist, a twenty-year high load scenario would not necessitate transmission upgrades. High amounts of distributed generation could cause transmission issues, particularly in the northwest part of the state. These issues could, however, be resolved by placing greater weight on the siting of future generation projects. Additionally, Vermont will continue to depend on transmission to import power in nearly all hours of the year. In order to manage the changing nature and use of the electric system, coordination between Vermont energy stakeholders is needed to ensure reliability and achievement of renewable energy and climate-driven requirements.

The committee agreed that informal comments by VSPC participants would be due no later than February 22, 2021, to be followed by a revised draft and the formal, written comment process by the end of the 60-day window on March 22, 2021 with the goal to have completed the VSPC review process

and be ready for public comment in late March. VELCO will conduct public meetings for input to the draft plan in April and May and a final plan will be submitted to the PUC and Department of Public Service (DPS) no later than July 1, 2021. There were no objections to the schedule. VSPC staff will send an email to confirm these steps.

FERC Order 2222

Anne Margolis, Deputy Director of the Regulated Utility Planning Division of the Department of Public Service, discussed the potential impacts of FERC Order 2222, including the implication for more communication between ISO-NE, state regulatory agencies, and distribution utilities. Additionally, more aggregation of distributed energy resources (DERs) is expected, with states to retain jurisdiction over their interconnection, and the need to ensure their reliable operation still present. Further refinement of DER definitions and regulations is needed, and to this end, there is presently a PUC interconnection rulemaking process underway to assess potential changes to rules 5.100 and 5.500.

Morgan Casella and John Woodward of Dynamic Organics presented to the committee on the need to consider communications protocols in accounting for the requirements of FERC Order 2222, especially as they pertain to the work of the Generation Constraint subcommittee. Overall, a broader dialogue of communication controls will be beneficial in the face of the complexity of existing infrastructure and improvements made as a result of Order 2222. It is expected that standardization of interfaces between all parties will be the greatest challenge of compliance; presently, many protocols exist, but the order presents the need to adopt a standard.

Henry Yoshimura, Director of Demand Resource Strategy for ISO-New England (ISO-NE), spoke to the committee on ISO-NE's existing treatment of DERs and planned changes in market regulations to comply with FERC Order 2222. The order requires Independent System Operators and Regional Transmission Organizations to allow DER aggregations (DERAs) to participate in the markets for all services that they are technically capable of providing. Presently, there are five markets and eleven participation models in New England in which DERAs can play some role. DERAs may be composed of a wide range of DERs, including different technology types, use cases, and locations. The current formulation of rules governing DERAs restrict them to containing only DERs that either inject or withdraw energy from the system. ISO-NE has proposed to instead define DERAs as settlement only (which can inject and withdraw) or dispatchable (which can inject, withdraw, and provide reserve and regulation services.) The minimum size for a DERA would be 100 kW, with no maximum size imposed. The DERs that comprise a DERA would not, themselves, have a minimum size requirement; however, any DER larger than 5 MW must be its own DERA. Though ISO will have to coordinate with and transfer data to and from distribution utilities to make adequate use of these resources, it will not be in real-time, and utilities with less than four million MWh of energy sales per year would be exempt from these requirements.

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

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

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- *Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Steve Litkovitz, GMP

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

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

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

Melissa Bailey, VPPSA

Supply & Demand Resources

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

Staff

Shana Louiselle, VELCO
Lou Cecere, VELCO

Guests

Andy Elliston, BED
Anne Margolis, DPS
Brad Williams, BED
Clair McIlvennie, DPS
Dan Kopin, Utility Services
Dave Carpenter, Green Lantern
Doug Smith, GMP
Henry Yoshimura, ISO-NE
Jay Pilliod, VEIC
John Woodward, Dynamic Organics
Kate Desrochers, Packetized Energy
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO
Kim Jones, GMP
Kris Smith, VEC
Marc Allen, VELCO
Maria Fischer, DPS
Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
Michael Lazorchak, Stowe Electric
Molly Connors, ISO-NE
Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics
Olivia Campbell Andersen, REV
Ryan Darlow, VERA
Tom Lyle, BED
William Jerome