



**Draft Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2021  
Virtual Conference**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a virtual conference on April 21, 2021. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Mike Wickenden moved to approve the January 27, 2021 minutes, and Steve Litkovitz seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

### **Introductions**

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

### **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. A meeting of the subcommittee is expected to be scheduled this summer to review the ISO-NE load forecast, which will be published in May. Additionally, the subcommittee will review the potential effects of contemplated federal investments in Vermont, and any determinations of the Vermont Climate Council with respect to load growth.

### **Generation Constraint Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle reminded the committee that the last meeting of the Generation Constraint subcommittee was in August of 2020, and discussed storage, flexible load management, and curtailment as part of its charge, and considered analysis to inform power and energy planning. The original intention of the group had been to complete its work at the same time as the completion of the Long-Range Transmission Plan; this time having passed, the subcommittee will determine how best to transition into future work.

### **Geographic Targeting Subcommittee**

Ms. Louiselle informed the committee that the next meeting of the Geographic Targeting subcommittee would be held in late May to conduct its annual project review. Though there have been few issues related to load growth in the past several years, the review gives all participants an understanding of capital work planned and underway, as well as to allow VELCO to present the Non-Transmission Alternative screening for the North Rutland substation condition project.

## Coordinating Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle reported that the VSPC would continue to hold meetings virtually due to COVID-19, with the October meeting to potentially be conducted in person. The next meeting of the committee is to take place on July 21, which will be held virtually.

## 2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan

Marc Allen and Lou Cecere, Transmission Planning Engineers for VELCO, presented additional analysis performed to supplement the Long-Range Transmission Plan (LRTP). Mr. Allen discussed the analysis of utility scale energy storage hosting capacity, the results of which indicated that siting and inadequate operation considerations could exacerbate existing grid constraints, or require curtailment of energy storage units. Mr. Cecere compared the Burlington Net Zero Energy Plan to the assumptions made in the LRTP, finding that though there are discrepancies in the 2030 timeframe, the two forecasts are comparable in 2040. Additionally, an examination of potential system impacts if conventional generators in Vermont were to retire found several new and accelerated subtransmission and transmission issues. Mr. Cecere gave an explanation of VELCO's Time Series Power Flow tool, which performs 8760 power flow simulations, each modeling one hour in a year. Conclusions drawn from use of the tool with inputs from the LRTP include: the expected frequency, average duration, and maximum duration of violations observed in the LRTP; the consistent occurrence of summer and winter peaks after dark; and continued dependence on imported power.

## Regional Update

Molly Connors, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-New England, reported that the 2021 Regional Electricity Outlook has been published, the 2021 Solar PV forecast has been completed, and the 2020 Consumer Liaison Group report has been posted, with the next meeting of that group to take place in June. The 2021 CELT report, to be published by May 1, will include forecasts for heating and transportation electrification. Forward Capacity Auction #15 was held on February 8 for the period of June 2024 through May 2025, with resulting clearing prices ranging from \$2.48/kW-month in Northern New England to \$3.98/kW-month in Southeast New England. This was the first auction conducted without the Mystic plants, which will retire in 2024. Multiple studies of the future grid, which seek to identify system reinforcement needed to accommodate potential long-term changes in regional generation profile and load growth, are underway at ISO-New England.

## Policy and Project Update

**Rule 5.500:** Anne Margolis, Director of Renewable Energy Development for the Department of Public Service, updated the committee on the PUC review of the interconnection rule 5.500 under case number 19-0856-RULE. Started in 2019, the review has included consideration of the interaction between transmission and distribution and associated regulation. The PUC may choose to move the technical requirements out of the rule itself as part of a tariff-based approach, which would allow for more frequent updates.

**Comprehensive Energy Plan:** TJ Poor, Director of Efficiency and Energy Services for the Department of Public Service, presented on the progress of the DPS' Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP). Public outreach is under way, as well as interaction with the Vermont Climate Council. The plan will include analysis of the use, supply, cost, and environmental effects of all energy in Vermont, and will be consistent with the

greenhouse gas emissions reductions requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Because of the timelines under which the two efforts are being conducted, the CEP can serve as an input to the Vermont Climate Council's Climate Action Plan. The draft of the CEP is to be published by September.

**Vermont Climate Council:** Johanna Miller, Energy & Climate Program Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, informed the committee on the activity of the Vermont Climate Council. Created as a 23-member group by the Global Warming Solutions Act, the council was supplemented with public members in five subcommittees. The Climate Action Plan, which will contain the recommendations of the VCC, is to be published by December 21.

**North Rutland Substation:** Mr. Pr sum  reported on the scope of work associated with the North Rutland Substation Condition Assessment Project, which will include the replacement of a circuit switcher, the substation fence, control house, and the in-kind replacement of equipment based on age or condition. VELCO plans to submit a Section 248 filing for the project this summer, and will present on the NTA screening for the project at the upcoming meeting of the Geographical Targeting subcommittee.

## Legislative Update

Ms. Louiselle updated the committee on legislative efforts under way in the Vermont state government, which has been back in session since January. At present, the focus is on economic recovery and pandemic relief, with an increasing amount of recommendations being presented on the best use of a federal stimulus bill. Bill S.1, which deals with the Standard Offer program and the Ryegate generating plant, passed the Senate. This will extend the operating license for Ryegate for two years, but with the caveat that there must be found some use of excess thermal energy. Bill S.60, which deals with innovative ratemaking for electric municipalities and cooperatives, passed the Senate and House. Bill S.119 will not advance, but has provided a constructive forum for state energy policy. An additional miscellaneous energy bill to address the components of storage interconnection is under consideration, and would likely set regulatory thresholds for differently sized battery energy storage systems. The Senate broadband bill is expected to pass that chamber, with reconciliation to occur in the House.

## 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 Newton, Planning representative
- \*\*Edward Bove, Planning representative

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- \*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

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

- \*Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- \*Cyril Brunner, VEC

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

- \*Munir Kastl, BED

### Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

(none)

### Supply & Demand Resources

- \*Dave Westman, EVT
- \*Nathaniel Vandal, Green Peak Solar
- \*\*Olivia Campbell Andersen, REV

### Non-Voting Members

(none)

### Staff

- Shana Louiselle, VELCO
- Lou Cecere, VELCO

### Guests

- Andrea Cohen, VEC
- Andrew Elliston, BED
- Anne Margolis, DPS
- Bradley Williams, BED
- Brian Evans-Mungeon, Utility Services
- Chris Root, VELCO
- Claire McIlvennie, DPS
- Dave Carpenter, Green Lantern Solar
- Greg Cuetara
- Jay Pilliod, EVT
- Jeff Fenn, SGC Engineering
- John Woodward, Dynamic Organics
- Julia Leopold, VPPSA
- Kim Jones, GMP
- Lucas Looman, VELCO
- Marc Allen, VELCO
- Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
- Michael Gadway
- Michael Hall
- Michael Lazorchack, SED
- Molly Connors, ISO-NE
- Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics
- Ryan Darlow, VERA
- Shawn Enterline, VPPSA
- Steve Fitzhugh
- Tom Lyle, BED
- Warren Coleman, MMR
- William Jerome