



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

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a virtual conference on July 21, 2021. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the April 21, 2021 minutes, and Bill Powell seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

### **Introductions**

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

### **Geotargeting Subcommittee**

T.J. Poor, Director of Efficiency and Energy Services of the Department of Public Service, reported that the Geographical Targeting Subcommittee met in May to complete the non-transmission alternative (NTA) screening process for identified subtransmission reliability issues. No new issues were found to “screen in” for further analysis. VELCO provided an overview of their screening for several asset condition projects at the Highgate, Middlebury, North Rutland and South Hero substations, all of which cannot be avoided by use of an NTA.

The subcommittee approved modifications to two zones in Vermont’s zonal map. IBM will be changed to GlobalFoundries and the Burlington zone will be changed to Greater Burlington. The subcommittee will meet again this year to continue discussion on the process guiding the subcommittee’s work and if the charter should be modified for greater alignment with future transmission concerns related to generation constraints.

### **Forecasting Subcommittee**

Hantz Pr sum  reported that the Forecasting Subcommittee will begin meeting again more regularly to discuss forecasting issues for the next long-range transmission plan. The subcommittee will discuss the most recent ISO-New England (ISO) published CELT forecast, and other inputs that should be considered in the forecasting work. The subcommittee will be monitoring data on all electric vehicles including light and medium duty EVs.

### **Coordinating Subcommittee**

Shana Louiselle reported that the VSPC will plan to reconvene in person for the October quarterly meeting. The 2022 VSPC calendar will be set at the October meeting.

## Cluster Study Requirements

Hantz Pr sum  provided a presentation about ISO-NE’s cluster study requirements to monitor the cumulative impacts of distributed generation on the transmission system. VELCO has not seen any negative impacts to the system, but is proactively monitoring ten separate substations that are experiencing negative load or reverse power during certain times of day. ISO-NE wants to understand local and system wide impacts, ride-through capabilities of the generators, and how other generators are impacted. ISO reviews projects based on the project size.

- Interconnection projects less than or equal to 1MW – do not need to notify ISO-NE. The project will be modeled as negative load and utilized in the ISO-NE forecast.
- Interconnection projects greater or equal to 5MW – ISO-NE study and approval required and will be modeled as an individual generator.
- Interconnection projects greater than 1MW and less than 5MW – VELCO notifies ISO-NE who models them as negative load. ISO-NE monitors the number of generators that interconnect to understand aggregate impacts on a substation/region. If a total of 5MW or greater collects to a single substation, a simple analysis will be required to confirm no adverse impact to the system. A total of 20MW or greater in the region will require a more comprehensive analysis.

Mr. Pr sum  concluded that the 20MW threshold is exceeded in certain zones but not at individual stations yet. Transparent statewide generation interconnections queues will help VELCO manage transmission studies, and VELCO plans to address the cluster process in PUC Rule 5.500.

More information about ISO-NE’s role in the interconnection review process for distributed generation can be found in this ISO-NE [memo](#) and [presentation](#).

## Regional Update

Molly Connors, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, reported that ISO-New England will hold the Regional System Plan Virtual Public Meeting on October 6, ISO Express has a new feature that enables real time solar production estimation, the Internal Market Monitor issued the 2020 annual Markets Review, and New England is expected to have adequate resources to meet peak summer demand. The 2021 CELT report was issued on May 1 and for the second year includes 10-year forecasts for heating electrification and light-duty electric vehicles. Winter peak is forecasted to be affected by electrification more than the summer peak.

Several regional studies are underway as part of the transition to the future grid initiative including the Cape Cod Resource Integration Study (CCRIS) to maximize offshore wind interconnection which ISO-NE initiated to identify infrastructure upgrades to enable the interconnection of an additional 1200 MW of offshore wind. ISO released the draft CCRIS report and estimated upgrade costs in May, and plans to initiate a second CCRIS that builds on the first and will identify upgrades needed to interconnect additional wind resources. Three other studies are ongoing to explore market and reliability issues in light of evolving state energy and environmental policies including:

- Future Grid Reliability Study (FGRS) – stakeholder-defined scenarios examine how the power system could operate in 2040 under current energy and environmental policies

- Pathways Evaluations – examines potential market frameworks that may help evolve the power grid to a future that reflects states’ policies;
- 2050 Transmission Study – High-level transmission study to identify infrastructure needed to cost-effectively incorporate clean energy and distributed energy resources by 2050 in support of the New England State’s vision.

Stakeholder conversations continue in the FERC Order 2222 compliance effort. In July, ISO-NE introduced major design modifications based on stakeholder feedback, and will submit the FERC filing by February 2, 2022. In addition, the ISO has begun work with New England states and NEPOOL stakeholders to make a filing to eliminate the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) in time for the Forward Capacity Auction in February 2023.

## **Presentation: Regional Transmission Costs & Tariff Structure**

Michele Nelson, Chief Financial Officer at VELCO, provided a presentation on VT Transco/VELCO’s financial structure and the cost drivers of the regional transmission system. The full presentation is available [here](#).

## **Policy and Project updates**

**Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan/Climate Action Plan:** TJ Poor reported that the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) coincides with the development of Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP), and while both plans do overlap they remain distinct planning requirements with different objectives. The DPS and ANR are working together to align the two required plans through the modeling and the public engagement efforts. Technical workshops and public meetings will be coordinated over the summer and fall to help inform the plans. The updated energy plan will seek to outline a strategy and decision-making framework that will guide decisions and the actions to achieve the state’s 90x2050 vision.

**NERC SPIDER Working Group:** Dan Kopin reported that NERC is seeking public input on draft reliability guidelines for under frequency load shed programs with increasing penetrations of distributed energy resources. The comment period closes August 26, 2021.

## Attendance

\* Indicates voting member

\*\* Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

- \*Michael Wickenden, Residential representative
- \*\*Tim Duggan, Residential representative
- \*\*Jeff Forward, Commercial representative
- \*Taylor Newtown, Planning representative

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- \*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO
- \*\*Frank Etori, VELCO

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

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

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

- \*Bill Powell, WEC
- \*Munir Kastj, 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

### Guests

Andrea Cohen, VEC  
Anne Margolis, DPS  
Betsy Bloomer, VELCO  
Brad Williams, BED  
Claire McIlvennie, DPS  
Craig Kieny, VEC  
Dan Potter, VEC  
Dave Carpenter, REV  
Chris Root, VELCO  
Dan Kopin, Utility Services  
Jay Pilliod, VEIC  
Jeff Fenn, SGC  
John Woodward, Dynamic Organics  
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO  
Kim Jones, GMP  
Lisa Cline, REV  
Marc Allen, VELCO  
Michael Lazorchak, SED  
Michele Nelson, VELCO  
Molly Connors, ISO-NE  
Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics  
Tom Dunn, VELCO  
Tom Lyle, BED  
Ryan Darlow, VERA  
William Jerome