



**Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2021  
Virtual Conference**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a virtual conference on January 26, 2022. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the October 27, 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.

## **Annual Report**

Ms. Louiselle reported that the draft VSPC annual report has been sent to the full committee for review. Mr. Litkovitz moved and Munir Kasti 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 January 31, 2022.]

## **Forecasting Subcommittee**

Hantz Pr sum  reported that forecasting process will begin earlier to prepare for the next cycle of long-range transmission planning in order to obtain the load forecast earlier and allow more time for the long-range planning analysis. The Committee will meet in March to review the ISO-New England draft forecast, discuss similarities and differences from Vermont's process, and what improvements can be made to the 2023 forecasting effort.

## **Coordinating Subcommittee**

Shana Louiselle reported that the VSPC will meet remotely for the April 2022 meeting, and the Coordinating Subcommittee will reassess returning to in-person meetings prior to the July meeting. A hybrid option will be available for in-person meetings.

## **Regional Update**

Molly Connors, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, shared links to recent ISO reports and upcoming activities, including a primer on the ISO's 21-day forecast for the region's energy supplies and the final report for Transmission Planning for the Clean Energy Transition, released in January 2022. Ms. Connors provided updates on the pending changes to the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR), the Forward Capacity Auction #16, as well as key takeaways from the Winter 2021/2022 Outlook. The full

presentation is available on the VSPC website [here](#).

## Presentation: Winter Reliability Emergency Planning

Jason Pew, Director of Operations at VELCO, provided a presentation on the energy emergency event that took place in Texas in 2021, regional actions taken as a result of the event, and how Vermont and New England are preparing for a similar energy emergency due to lack of adequate natural gas.

ISO-New England engaged with New England control centers to ensure emergency load shedding plans were in place to perform rolling outages (i.e. feeder rotations). Mr. Pew reported that VELCO and the Vermont distribution utilities formed a group called the Vermont Utility Winter Preparedness Task Force to ensure emergency plans are in place and ready to implement should an energy emergency event take place. The Task Force's purpose is to maintain awareness of the ISO-NE 21-day Energy Assessment Forecast and Report, coordinate utility plans to accomplish a multi-day load shed event to include load served by utilities without a staffed control center, and to coordinate load shed plans with identified critical loads.

In addition, ISO-New England created a working group comprised of operations and communication representatives from each New England's transmission owner to coordinate a tabletop exercise demonstrating the expected actions during an Energy Emergency, and develop a communications plan that will coordinate the necessary and effective communication to all the stakeholders and the public before, during, and after an energy emergency. The tabletop exercise will take place in fall 2022.

Mr. Pew's full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

## Electric Sector Grid Modernization Investment Proposal

Rebecca Towne, Vermont Electric Cooperative CEO, provided an overview of the Vermont Utility Infrastructure Investment proposal highlighting priority investment areas to help achieve Vermont's renewable and climate-driven goals. Ms. Towne reviewed the four categories within the proposal including reliability and resilience, grid modernization, energy transformation equity and distributed generation integration. Reliability and resilience investments includes strategic relocation and upgrade of distribution infrastructure, vegetation management and apprenticeship and training; grid modernization investments include advanced metering infrastructure, flexible load and distributed energy management systems, distribution automation, and energy storage; energy transformation equity investments includes electrification make-ready for all homes and businesses; and lastly distributed generation integration investments include upgrades to substations and transmission capacity across Vermont to unlock more renewable generation. Ms. Towne concluded the overview by sharing that the utilities will continue to refine the proposal and bring greater clarity to the request, identifying each utility's priorities, and how the request will align with ARPA funding. The full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

## Policy and Project Updates

- **PUC Rule 5.500 draft rule:** The PUC opened a proceeding in 2019 to review the PUC Interconnection Rule 5.500 that governs interconnection procedures for electric generation resources. In December 2021, the PUC issued the draft rule with proposed changes. In addition, the PUC is seeking comments on several topics, including the PUC's proposal to allow the Commission to adopt by order standards for communication protocols. The VSPC has been identified as a potential stakeholder group that would be invited to form a working group to

develop the recommended standards for communication protocols and then share with the PUC for further public process. Comments are due February 11.

- **PUC Energy Storage Rulemaking:** The PUC held two workshops in January on the storage rule in to discuss siting criteria and aggregation of storage resources. Pursuant to Act 54, the PUC has a deadline to put forward a storage rule by March 15, 2022.
- **VT Comprehensive Energy Plan:** The Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan is complete following the public input process at the end of 2021. The final plan is available [here](#).

## Attendance

\* Indicates voting member

\*\* Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

- \*Michael Wickenden, Residential representative
- \*\*Tim Duggan, Residential representative
- \*\*Jeff Forward, Commercial representative
- \*Taylor Newton, Regional Planning rep
- \*\*Ed Bove, Regional Planning representative

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

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

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

- \*Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- \*\*Doug Smith, GMP
- \*Kris Smith, VEC

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

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

### Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

- \*Ken Nolan, VPPSA

### Supply & Demand Resources

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

### Non-Voting Members

- TJ Poor, DPS
- Philip Picotte, DPS

### Staff

Shana Louiselle, VELCO

### Guests

Andrea Cohen, VEC  
Andy Elliston, BED  
Anne Margolis, DPS  
Betsy Bloomer, VELCO  
Brad Williams, BED  
Candace Morgan, GMP  
Dan Potter, VEC  
Dan Kopin, VELCO  
Dan Nelson, VELCO  
Jason Pew, VELCO  
Jay Pilliod, VEIC  
John Fiske, GMP  
John Woodward, Dynamic Organics  
Jonathan Dowds, REV  
Josh Castonguay, GMP  
Julia Leopold, VPPSA  
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO  
Kim Jones, GMP  
Lou Cecere, DPS  
Marc Allen, VELCO  
Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO  
Michael Burke, GMP  
Michael Lazorchak, SED  
Molly Connors, ISO-NE  
Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics  
Patricia Waugh, SED  
Paul Lambert, VEIC  
Rebecca Towne, VEC  
Shawn Enterline, VPPSA  
Tom Lyle, BED  
Ryan Darlow, VERA  
William Jerome