



**Draft Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022
Virtual Conference**

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

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the January 26, 2022 minutes, and Munir Kasti seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

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

Forecasting Subcommittee

Hantz Pr sum  reported that the Forecasting Subcommittee met in April to discuss the approach to the development of the 2023 load forecast. The subcommittee reviewed the ISO-New England (ISO-NE) draft forecast. The Committee noted two differences from the ISO-NE and Vermont forecasts. ISO-NE is updating its electric vehicle (EV) forecast to include EV fleets and medium-duty vehicles, and it does not model cooling load from heat pumps. The Forecasting Subcommittee will seek to include EV fleets and medium-duty vehicles into the forecast, and will continue to analyze cooling loads in its approach. The subcommittee also discussed key inputs and data sources to include in the new forecast including heat pumps, EVs, energy efficiency and the need to for more data on storage and load control programs. The Subcommittee will meet next in June to discuss the forecast approach with forecast consultant, Itron. Mr. Pr sum  reported that the subcommittee will meet quarterly through 2022 to finalize the forecast scope by the end of the year.

Geographical Targeting Subcommittee

TJ Poor reported that the subcommittee will meet in late May or early June to conduct its annual project review and discuss potential reliability issues. If any issues were to screen in, further analysis would be required during the summer and presented to the VSPC for review in October.

Coordinating Subcommittee

Shana Louiselle reported that the VSPC will return to in-person quarterly meetings beginning at the July 20 meeting to be held at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. A meeting invite will be sent to confirm the location of the meeting and will include a remote meeting option. Ms. Louiselle requested that all participants respond to the invitation and identify if they plan to attend in-person or remotely.

Regional Update

Eric Johnson, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, provided an overview of initiatives underway at the ISO beginning with a collaboration with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to conduct a probabilistic energy-security study for the New England region to model and assess operational impacts of extreme weather events. Extreme weather events in Texas and California have made it apparent that multi-day or longer energy deficiencies have serious consequences to residents and the economy. ISO-NE filed results of the Forward Capacity Auction #16 on March 21. FCA #16 procured the resources need to meet the demand for electricity, plus reserve requirements, during the June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026 capacity commitment period. The preliminary estimate of the total value of the capacity market is \$1.04 billion. The next auction will be held March 6, 2023.

ISO-NE recently made two filing with FERC. The first was a proposal with FERC to eliminate the minimum offer price rule (MOPR) with a transition mechanism for FCAs #17 and #18. The proposal would fully eliminate the MOPR for FCA #19, and introduce reformed buyer-side market power review and mitigation rules. The new methodology is expected to maintain market competitiveness, while allowing entry of state-sponsored resources. ISO-NE also filed its proposal to comply with FERC Order No. 2222 related to Distributed Energy Resource Aggregation (DERAs) on February 2, 2022. The proposal creates two new participant models and amends several existing models in order to allow DERAs to participate in the ISO's energy and ancillary-service markets; and it amends the tariff to allow DERAs to participate as capacity resources in the Forward Capacity Market.

Mr. Johnson noted the ISO proposes to change relevant sections of the Interconnection Procedures in Schedules 22 and 23 of the Open Access Transmission Tariff to identify that all new distribution-connected generation should proceed through the state interconnection process. The proposal is being discussed at the NEPOOL Transmission Committee through May with a Committee vote planned on May 31, followed by Participants Committee action in June.

Lastly, the ISO's Pathways to the Future Grid initiative is exploring potential market frameworks to support the power grid's evolution. The ISO modeled four potential market designs that could help the region decarbonize the New England electric system including net carbon pricing, Forward Clean Energy Market (FCEM), hybrid of the two (FCEM and net carbon pricing), and the status quo of state procurements of clean energy. A draft report is available. ISO's full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Presentation: ISO-New England's 2050 Transmission Study

Dan Schwarting, ISO-NE Transmission Planning Manager, provided an overview on the first phase of the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE)-requested, ISO New England-led 2050 Transmission Study. This study is a long-term transmission planning analysis that evaluates the transmission infrastructure needed to meet the New England states' energy policies and consumer demand, while simultaneously satisfying reliability requirements in the years 2035, 2040 and 2050. The study revealed that as the region moves from summer-peaking to winter peaking, increases its use of renewables and doubles its peak power consumption, approximately half of its 9,000 miles of transmission lines become overloaded by 2050. Vermont's 115 kV transmission system showed some overloads due to increased peak loads, but the Vermont 345 kV system did not show major concerns. The second phase of the study will address the rules necessary to enable a state to select potential options for addressing issues identified in the transmission analyses and how to arrive at a cost allocation for the associated transmission infrastructure.

Presentation: Franklin County Transmission Line Upgrade

Hantz Pr sum , VELCO’s Transmission Planning Manager, presented details about the Franklin County Line Upgrade, an emerging transmission project in northwest Vermont. VELCO is proposing to rebuild the existing Highgate-to-Georgia transmission line or the K42 line, a 16.6 mile wood H-frame transmission line originally built in 1958. Recent inspections and engineering analysis of the K42 line revealed that 146 of the 212 structures are in poor condition due to their age, woodpecker and insect damage, cracks, splitting, rotting wood, and/or leaning poles. These aged and/or deficient structures are not able to reliably reach another eight years of age before the next full field evaluation.

The K42 line is an important grid asset to northern Vermont, and difficult to take out of service. The proposed scope of work is designed to address asset condition need with minimal disruption to the electric grid. The proposed project would build a new line next to the existing line, with weathering steel single-poles. The conductor (wire) and fiber optic cable will also be replaced. VELCO is considering selecting a double-bundle design for the new conductor as the most cost-effective alternative that addresses the asset condition concerns, reduces losses by 50%, improves system strength and reactive margin, addresses current export constraints, facilitates renewable energy growth, and ensures equitable access to renewables. Once the rebuild is complete, VELCO will remove the original line.

Mr. Pr sum  shared that the project has been approved by ISO-NE and NEPOOL, and is currently being discussed with Vermont distribution utilities and the Department of Public Service. Public outreach has begun and will continue through the life of the project. The project will be reviewed by the Geographic Targeting Subcommittee this year, and the permitting process is expected to begin in 2023.

Presentation: Join FERC/NARUC task force on regional transmission planning update

Riley Allen, Vermont Public Utility Commissioner and Joint Transmission Task Force member, provided an overview of the ongoing work at the FERC/NARUC transmission task force. He shared that discussions at the Task Force have focused on broadening the scope of benefits in regional transmission planning and revising the cost allocation process. Allen highlighted key insights from the recent Task Force meeting including the proposal to evaluate projects in clusters to capture the synergies among multiple projects instead of looking at transmission projects on a case-by-case basis; and, the merits of removing the typical “silos” that seek to more narrowly categorize a transmission project according to one value, i.e., reliability, economic or public policy, and instead expanding the categories of benefits since projects tagged as providing one benefit almost always deliver additional benefits. Commissioner Allen also shared his personal emphasis during Task Force meeting on cost containment, and the value of applying a more holistic approach to long-term transmission planning. He continues to work closely with ISO New England, VELCO and NESCOE on these topics, and will seek to stay engaged with the VSPC going forward. Lastly, at its May 6 meeting, the Task Force discussed interconnection queue reforms including: tighter applicant requirements, tighter deadlines for transmission service providers and faster tracks for certain categories of applicants, e.g., renewable generators utilizing in-place transmission infrastructure of phased-out fossil-fuel and/or nuclear generators.

Policy and Project Updates

- **Grid Modernization investment update:** The Vermont utilities presented a \$2 Billion Infrastructure Investment proposal to the Vermont legislature in January highlighting priority investment areas to help achieve Vermont’s renewable and climate-driven goals. The initial

proposal has been modified to bring greater clarity to the request and identify which areas of investment align with the ARPA funding. Additionally, investment estimates were modified and transmission projects were removed from the scope to reduce the investment proposal to \$100 million. The revised proposal has been reviewed by the House and the House-passed budget included investment for some of the utility requests including \$20 Million for low-to-moderate income electrical upgrades, \$2 million for storage and load management and \$5 Million for automated metering infrastructure.

DRAFT

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

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

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

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- **Doug Smith, GMP

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

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

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

N/A

Supply & Demand Resources

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

Non-Voting Members

TJ Poor, DPS
Philip Picotte, DPS

Shana Louiselle, VELCO

Guests

Andy Elliston, BED
Anne Margolis, DPS
Betsy Bloomer, VELCO
Brad Williams, BED
Brent Oberlin, ISO-NE
Carolyn Anderson, GMP
Cyril Brunner, VEC
Dan Kopin, VELCO
Dan Nelson, VELCO
Dan Schwarting, ISO-NE
Dave Carpenter
Eric Johnson, ISO-NE
Jay Pilliod, VEIC
John Fiske, GMP
John Woodward, Dynamic Organics
Jonathan Dowds, REV
Julia Leopold, VPPSA
Kim Jones, GMP
Lou Cecere, DPS
Marc Allen, VELCO
Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
Mary Jo Krolewski, PUC
Michael Gadway
Michael Lazorchak, SED
Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics
Riley Allen, PUC
Sarah Adams, ISO-NE
Sarah Braese, VPPSA
Shawn Enterline, VPPSA
Tom Lyle, BED
Tom Petraska
Ryan Darlow, VERA

Staff