



**Draft Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2022
Stowe, Vermont**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a quarterly meeting on July 20, 2022. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the April 20, 2022 minutes, and Michael Wickenden seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

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

Coordinating Subcommittee

Shana Louiselle welcomed the two newly PUC-appointed public members to the VSPC: Stephen Crowley, Environmental Protection alternate; and George Gross, Regional Planning alternate. Eight public member seats will expire in July 2023 including both primary and alternate seats for Residential, Commercial, Planning, and Environmental. The Public Utility Commission will solicit interested candidates next spring.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled on October 26, 2022 and will be held at the Killington Grand Hotel, in Killington, VT. A remote option will be available for participants.

Forecasting Subcommittee

Philip Picotte, Load Forecasting Subcommittee Chair, reported that the Forecasting Subcommittee met in July to provide input on the load forecast approach for the 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. The forecast consultant, Itron, reviewed the forecast approach and discussed the data sources needed to perform the modeling. The subcommittee expressed special interest in the Vermont Climate Action Plan and what actions are being taken to meet the requirements for the Global Warming Solutions Act, with a particular focus on the impact of heat pump and electric vehicle adoption. The subcommittee will meet next in the fall to review Itron's draft proposal. The subcommittee expects to finalize the forecast scope by the end of the year.

Geographical Targeting Subcommittee

TJ Poor, DPS Director of Regulated Utility Planning, reported that the subcommittee met in June to conduct its annual project review and complete the non-transmission alternative (NTA) screening process for identified reliability issues. No new issues were found to "screen in" for further analysis. If any issues were to screen in, further analysis would be required during the summer and presented to

the VSPC for review in October. The subcommittee also reviewed VELCO's NTA Screening Review for the K42 rebuild that is now referred to as the Franklin County Line Upgrade Project. The proposed project seeks to rebuild the 16.6 mile Georgia-to-Highgate electric transmission line after a recent inspection and engineering analysis of the line revealed 146 of the 212 structures are in need of replacement. The proposed scope of work is designed to address asset condition need, and cannot be avoided by use of an NTA. There were no objections to the findings.

Shana Louiselle reported that TJ Poor was stepping down as Chair to the Geographic Targeting Subcommittee, and that another member of the subcommittee will be asked to help guide the process forward for next year.

Technical Working Group Proposal

Lou Cecere, DPS Electrical & Planning Engineer, brought a proposal to the VSPC to form a Technical Working Group to provide a forum for discussion of technical issues impacting the grid. The group will begin with the topic of interoperability/communication protocols to investigate and discuss visibility, communication and control for distributed energy resources. Other key topics will include dispatch optimization, DER wholesale market participation, hosting capacity, and resilience. Topics of cost allocation, DERMS procurement and economic dispatch optimization practices will not be part of the discussion. The group would be co-chaired by the Department with designated representatives from each VSPC entity, and other interested members. VSPC Staff will coordinate with the Department of Public Service to schedule the first meeting by the end of the year.

Regional Update

Eric Johnson, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, provided an overview of initiatives underway at the ISO-NE including the 2022 Vermont Needs Assessment, updates on the regional studies supporting the future grid, proposal for ISO-NE tariff revisions to modify DER interconnection process, and an update on ISO-NE's winter assessment. The full presentation is available [here](#).

Presentation: Vermont Electric Cooperative's 2022 Integrated Resource Plan

Cyril Brunner, Innovation and Technology Leader at Vermont Electric Cooperative, provided an overview of the 2022 VEC Integrated Resource Plan. The plan articulates five challenges including: 1) decarbonizing the energy system by developing a 100% renewable portfolio by 2030 and expanding transformation in the heating and transportation areas; 2) just transitions and energy equity by supporting rural members with high energy burdens to enable membership-wide participation in the energy transition; 3) maintaining a reliable electric grid through infrastructure upgrades and resilience; 4) supporting a rapidly shifting centralized and decentralized grid; 5) and providing VEC members with choice.

VEC's 2022 Integrated Resource Plan is available [here](#), and the full presentation is available [here](#).

Presentation: Green Mountain Power 2021 Integrated Resource Plan

Stephanie Ross, Grid Strategist at Green Mountain Power provided an overview of GMP's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan starting with the transformational themes within the Plan: generating energy closer to home, enabling integration and coordination through connections to drive down costs, and empowering customers with options in the latest innovations to promote equity and cut carbon and

costs. GMP forecasts substantial long-term growth of electricity use with the electrification of electric vehicles and cold-climate heat pumps (CCHP). Flexible load management will be key to orchestrating high loads, and GMP plans to increasingly manage flexible loads and storage to align with periods of low wholesale energy prices and renewable generation.

Chris Cole, Director of Market Operations at Green Mountain Power, provided an overview on the regional outlook on renewable supply and GMP's portfolio evaluation including storage application.

GMP's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan is available [here](#), and the full presentation is available [here](#).

Policy and Project Updates

- **PUC Rulemaking 5.500:** Mark Sciarrotta provided an update on the Public Utility Commission 5.500 rulemaking process, sharing that VELCO is coordinating with other entities to include a inverter-setting verification process in the interconnection application that ensures inverter-based resources are installed with settings that match what was assumed in the studies. The group is working together to build consensus on the best way to verify the settings are correct and propose language to the PUC.
- **PSD Review of Renewable and Clean Electricity Policy and Programs:** TJ Poor reported that the Public Service Department issued a Request for Input to solicit feedback on the process for the review of clean electricity policies and programs. The RFI seeks to gather input on several key topics related to the engagement effort for the process, core decision-making criteria and initial issues for consideration related to renewable electricity in Vermont. Comments are due August 5, 2022.
- **2024 EVT Demand Resource Plan:** Dave Westman, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Efficiency Vermont (EVT) reported the Demand Resource Plan will be updated through a proposal from EVT, BED, and VGS identifying all the efficiency opportunities in the state for the next ten years, and 20 years for electrical activities. The Plan focuses on measurement, verification and evaluation activities of EEU programs intended to acquire both electric energy efficiency funded by the Energy Efficiency Charge (EEC) on electric ratepayer bills and thermal savings from the Thermal Energy and Process Fuel (TEPF) efficiency fund. EVT is providing key metrics to the Load Forecasting Subcommittee on the penetration of cold climate heat pumps and other electrification measures to help with the 2023 long-range plan forecast. EVT will provide a summary of the proposal in 2023.
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Opportunities for Vermont:** Lou Cecere provided an overview of the 40101 (d) Formula Grant Program of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that the Department of Energy will provide to States and Indian Tribes to improve the resilience of the electric grid. It is a \$5 billion formula grant of which Vermont has been allocated \$16.6 million over five years. The Vermont Public Service Department will likely be designated as the lead agency to apply for, receive and allocate the funds to sub recipients in Vermont. Sub recipients are responsible for a 100% match if they are above 4 million MWhs of sales per year, or a 33% match if they are less than that threshold. The Department will be required to submit a program narrative that includes criteria and methodology to select projects, and evidence of a public hearing. Applications are due to the DOE by September 30. Other section of the IJA will be released later this year with more federal money available for reliability and resiliency, and deployment of technologies to enhance grid flexibility.

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

- *Michael Wickenden, Residential representative
- **Tim Duggan, Residential representative
- *Michael Kirick, Commercial representative
- **Jeff Forward, Commercial representative
- *Taylor Newton, Regional Planning rep
- **George Gross, Regional Planning rep
- *Johanna Miller, Environmental representative
- **Steve Crowley, Environmental representative

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- *Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Steve Litkovitz, GMP

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

- *Bill Powell, WEC
- **Andy Elliston

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

- Sarah Braese, VPPSA

Supply & Demand Resources

- *Dave Westman, EVT

Non-Voting Members

- TJ Poor, DPS
- Philip Picotte, DPS

Staff

- Shana Louiselle, VELCO

Guests

- Anne Margolis, DPS
- Betsy Bloomer, VELCO
- Brad Williams, BED
- Carolyn Anderson, GMP
- Chris Cole, GMP
- Colin Owyang, VELCO
- Craig Kieny, VEC
- Cyril Brunner, VEC
- Eric Johnson, ISO-NE
- Jay Pilliod, EVT
- John Fiske, GMP
- Jonathan Dowds, REV
- Kris Smith, VEC
- Lou Cecere, DPS
- Marc Allen, VELCO
- Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
- Michael Gadway
- Michael Lazorchak, SED
- Ryan Darlow, VERA
- Shawn Enterline, VPPSA
- Stephanie Ross, GMP
- Tom Lyle, BED
- Tom Petraska
- Warren Coleman, MMR