



**Draft Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022
Killington, Vermont**

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

Steve Litkovitz moved to approve the July 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.

Geotargeting Subcommittee

Shana Louiselle reported that the Geographical Targeting Subcommittee reviewed the geotargeting recommendation letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC), and is seeking approval from the full Committee. Ms. Louiselle asked for questions and comments before moving to approval of the draft as distributed.

Steve Litkovitz moved and Bill Powell seconded approval of the GT recommendations, which were approved without objection.

The recommendations will be filed with the PUC by January 15, 2023. [Note: the letter was filed on November 8, 2022.]

Load Forecasting Subcommittee

Hantz Pr sum , Director of Transmission Planning for VELCO, reported that the subcommittee met in July to discuss the 2023 load forecast approach and discuss technology trends and policy considerations to include in the development of the 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. The committee is considering cold climate heat pump penetration, electric vehicles growth, energy efficiency, load control and storage as key data inputs into the forecast. The final forecast will be ready in June 2023. Additionally, Efficiency Vermont presented an update to their Demand Resource Plan.

Technical Working Group

Lou Cecere, DPS Electrical & Planning Engineer, reported that the working group has not met yet, and that the Department will be coordinating with key stakeholders to identify subject matter experts to participate in the working group discussions. Meeting details will be shared with the VSPC and will be open to attend.

Coordinating Subcommittee

Shana Louiselle reviewed the following 2023 VSPC meeting dates:

- January 25, 2023 – Delta Hotel, South Burlington
- April 19, 2023 – TBD, Middlebury
- July 19, 2023 – Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe
- October 25, 2023 – Killington Grant Hotel, Killington

Meeting invitations will be sent out with confirmed meeting details.

Presentation: Transmission as Decarbonization Rx: How Transmission can Propel Clean Energy for Vermont and New England

Colin Owyang, Chief Operating Officer at VELCO, presented on an emerging portfolio of potential VELCO transmission investments to ensure system reliability and affordably advance Vermont and region's clean energy vision. Mr. Owyang described four transmission investment opportunities that would provide value to Vermont and reduce cost pressures for electric customers.

- New England Clean Power Link: a permitted project that would bring an additional 1000 MWs of Hydro-Quebec power to Southern New England.
- Franklin County Line Upgrade: a proposed project to rebuild an existing line which will improve reliability, reduce energy losses, and allow for an estimated additional 20 MW of in-state renewable energy generation to join the grid. The project would also create an opportunity for a potential second line within the existing corridor to import additional power.
- New York Interties: a potential project that could construct reinforcements in VELCO's existing ties to New York (PV20) to unlock onshore wind in upstate New York.
- Phase I/II: a potential project that could construct an additional line within the existing Phase I/II HVDC line corridor.

The full presentation is available [here](#).

Presentation: VELCO's Fiber Reliability Project update

Brad Ballard, Project Manager at VELCO, provided an overview of the Fiber Reliability Project. The project will install over 800 miles of fiber to 68 substations, 32 VELCO radio sites, and 485 distributed energy resources consisting of approximately 394 MWs of generation. The project will enable visibility of DERs, support black start system, enhance secure communications, enhance system protection, enable system planning using actual data vs. estimated data, and will promote Vermont broadband expansion. Planning and development activities are underway. The full presentation is available [here](#).

Regional Update

Sarah Adams, Vermont External Affairs Representative for ISO-NE, provided an overview of initiatives underway at the ISO-NE including New England winter reliability discussions, future resource mix, updates on the regional studies supporting the future grid, transmission planning updates and ISO-NE's efforts to improve distributed energy resource integration. The full presentation is available [here](#).

Policy and Project Updates

- **New England States Regional Transmission Infrastructure Initiative:** In September, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island announced a joint initiative and a request for information (RFI) to explore investment in electric transmission infrastructure needed integrate offshore wind and other clean energy resources. Lou Cecere reported that although Vermont did not join the RFI announcement, the state supports the work, and continues to participate in the discussion should New England advance with a RFP.
- **FERC/NARUC Joint Transmission Task Force:** Riley Allen, PUC Commissioner, provided an overview of the Joint Task Force work, including discussion on better planning for interregional transmission, and reported that the next meeting is scheduled in November to discuss the topics of cost containment and transparency.
- **PUC Rulemaking 5.400:** Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO General Counsel, reported that the Public Utility Commission 5.400 rule proposed reforms that would provide project-adjointing landowners to have full party status into Section 248 permit applications without any showing of a relevant interest or need. VELCO submitted comments opposing the change due to significant costs, delays and uncertainty in the siting process for infrastructure that would be needed to ensure reliability. Although a schedule has not been issued yet, the PUC would like to submit the final rule to the Legislative Committee on Rules (LCAR) and Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules (ICAR) next year.
- **PUC Rulemaking 5.500:** Mr. Sciarrotta provided an overview on the PUC 5.500 sharing that VELCO is coordinating with other entities to include an 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. VELCO and GMP will propose language to the group to include in the rule.
 - **Distributed generation tripping during July transmission event:** Hantz Pr sum  shared a July 7, 2022 outage event in New York quickly reduced the NY frequency (under 60 HZ), and caused the New England load to increase by 100 MW. Vermont’s grid experienced half of the load increase. Vermont distributed generation tripped due to the rate of change of frequency (ROCOF) protection setting within the inverter, and caused the load increase. Key takeaways from the incident are that inverter settings that ride through ROCOF and angle shift events would reduce exposures, and accurate network models are needed by planners and operators to anticipate exposures. The presentation is available [here](#).

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

- *Michael Wickenden, 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
- **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

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

Andrea Cohen, VEC
Anne Margolis, DPS
Betsy Bloomer, VELCO
Brad Williams, BED
Carolyn Anderson, GMP
Colin Owyang, VELCO
Cyril Brunner, VEC
Dan Kopin, VELCO
Dan Nelson, VELCO
Dave Carpenter, Green Latern Solar
David Woodhouse, VEC
Dylan Zwicky, Leonine
Ethan Latour, MMR
Eric Johnson, ISO-NE
Jackie Pratt, Stowe Electric
Jay Pilliod, EVT
John Dasaro, Village of Enosburg
John Woodward, DO
Jonathan Dowds, REV
Justin Johnson, MMR
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO
Khalid Osman, VELCO
Kris Smith, VEC
Lou Cecere, DPS
Marc Allen, VELCO
Mark Sciarrotta, VELCO
Michael Gadway, Ludlow Electric
Michael Lazorchak, SED
Morgan Casella, DO
Paul Lambert, EVT
Ryan Darlow, VERA
Sarah Adams, ISO-NE

Thomas Lyle, BED
Tom Petraska, Ludlow Electric
Warren Coleman, MMR

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