



**Draft Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2023
Virtual Meeting**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a quarterly meeting on July 12, 2023. Shana Louiselle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Taylor Newton moved to approve the April 19, 2023 minutes, and Brian Evans-Mungeon seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

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

Geographic Targeting Subcommittee

Shana Louiselle, VSPC Facilitator, reported that the Geographic Targeting 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. Materials are available on the VSPC website.

Coordinating Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle reviewed the 2023-2024 VSPC quarterly meeting dates. The next meeting is scheduled on October 25, 2023 at the Killington Grand Hotel in Killington, Vermont.

The 2024 VSPC meeting dates are as follows:

- January 24, 2024 – Delta Hotel, South Burlington
- April 17, 2024 – Middlebury (TBD)
- July 17, 2024 – Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe
- October 23, 2024 – Killington Grand Hotel, Killington

Ms. Louiselle shared the Public Utility Commission designated the following appointments for the public member seats. The appointments are for a five-year term that will expire on July 31, 2028:

- Tim Duggan, Residential representative primary
- Michael Kirick, Commercial representative primary
- Johanna Miller, Environmental representative primary
- Steve Crowley, Environmental representative alternate
- Taylor Newton, Regional planning representative primary

- George Gross, Regional planning representative alternate

Letters of interest for the residential representative alternate and commercial representative alternate were due on June 30. The Public Utility Commission will notify the VSPC when the appointments are made.

Technical Working Group

Lou Cecere, Electrical and Planning Engineer at the Vermont Public Service Department, reported that the working group will meet in August to review existing communication protocols and interoperability standards. A meeting invite will be sent to the full Committee.

Load Forecasting Subcommittee

Hantz Pr sum , Director of Transmission Planning at VELCO, reported that the subcommittee met in June to review Itron’s final forecast for the Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Mr. Pr sum  shared highlights from the forecast, including:

- Itron produced a forecast for each of the 16 planning zones. This was a key difference from the last forecast where allocations from the statewide forecast were provided for each zone.
- Itron reconstituted the load for solar home use generation. VELCO provides historical data, and Itron recalculates to calibrate their forecast models to the historical data.
- Itron provided two scenario forecasts – business-as-usual (BAU) and policy-driven forecasts. The policy forecast is intended to represent Vermont meeting its clean energy and climate-driven targets.
- Storage and load control will be considered as solution options.

Itron’s final forecast presentation is available on the VSPC website [here](#).

2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan Load Forecast & Scenario Planning

Mr. Pr sum  provided an overview of the study scope for the 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. The forecast is based on existing and expected trends and policies and reflects high electrification load for electric vehicles and heat pumps, as well as high levels of connected distributed energy resources (DERs). The plan will mitigate the high uncertainty of load and potential policies by modeling different levels of load scenarios and various amount of DERs with low load. Mr. Pr sum  reviewed the various forecasts including DER, peak load, and solar PV forecasts.

Under the policy-driven scenario forecast, study assumptions will include 18,000 new heat pumps will be installed per year (based on VEIC mid-range forecast, and that 90% of non-fleet vehicles will be electric vehicles (based on VEIC high-EV forecast). Under the BAU scenario forecast, study assumptions include 10,000 new heat pumps will be installed per year (based on VEIC lower-range forecast) and 50% of non-fleet vehicles will be electric vehicles (based on VEIC medium-EV forecast).

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

Regional Update

Sarah Adams, Vermont External Affairs Representatives for ISO-NE, provided an overview of initiatives

underway at the ISO-NE including ISO New England Engagement in June FERC forum, an Operational Impact of Extreme Weather update, ISO Interconnection Queue Snapshot, ISO New England publications and resources, and notable ISO planning and improvement efforts. The full presentation is available [here](#).

ISO-NE Distributed Generation Survey Modifications

Bradley Marszalkowski, Senior Engineer – Transmission Service Studies at ISO New England, provided a presentation on Grid Transformation and Implications of 1547-2018, and the proposed changes to IEEE 1547. IEEE 1547 governs how certain resources connect to the electric grid, including technical specifications for, and testing of, the interconnection and interoperability between utilities and distributed energy resources. The standard provides requirements for responses to abnormal conditions among others requirements.

The Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group (MA-TSRG) issued an update to the Source Requirement Document (SRD) in July 2022, with an effective date of January 1, 2023. This new document will replace the ISO SRD. New settings include new voltage trip settings, voltage ride-through capability and additional operational requirements, and newly proposed grid support utility interactive inverter functions status. The new settings document can be found on the MA-TSRG website. Ever source, until, and National Grid have begun to adopt the latest version of IEEE 1547-2018 as amended by 1547a-2020.

Mr. Marszalkowski shifted to another presentation to report on ISO-New England’s new effort to collect higher fidelity data about DERs. Data is still on an individual installation basis. Going forward, new DER surveys through the Distributed Generation Forecast Working Group will contain substation level information to enable better modeling in ISO-NE’s reliability studies.

Policy and Project Updates

- **Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission:** Dan Kopin, Manager of Innovation at VELCO, shared that the New England states, New York and New Jersey are taking a proactive approach to interregional transmission planning and have requested DOE support to form “Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission” to examine opportunities for increased connectivity between areas, including for integration of off-shore wind. ISO-NE, NYISO and PJM asked that DOE avoid duplicative effort by leveraging existing procedures and tools to support the Collaborative. If the ISO request is granted, then existing procedures and tools such as the Northeastern ISO/RTO Planning Coordination Protocol, and the Northeastern Coordinated System Plan would be resources for regional grid transformation.
- 1. **NERC Registration of Inverter-Based Resources:** Mr. Kopin shared that FERC accepted NERC’s plan to register more inverter-based resources that are not currently registered. Going forward, by May 2024, NERC will modify the registration processes to create a new “Generator Owner-Inverter Based Resources (GO-IBR)” registration; by May 2025, NERC will identify unregistered IBR owners and operators meeting the new registration criteria using EIA data; and by 2026, NERC will ensure IBR owners and operators are registered and required to comply with applicable Reliability Standards. More information will come out of the NERC working groups later this year.
- **PSD Energy Policy and Program Review update:** TJ Poor, Planning Director at the Public Service Department, reported the PSD hosted a webinar series in February and March to share

information and answer questions about Vermont's current electric system. The webinar series was the first phase of the public engagement opportunities planned as part of the process to comprehensively review the state's renewable and clean electricity policies and programs. Since then, more outreach has been conducted including a statewide poll, and public meetings to receive feedback from a broader stakeholder group. The PSD began its technical analysis in coordination with Sustainable Energy Advantage and has selected members of a stakeholder advisory group to get consensus on assumptions for the technical analysis that will eventually guide the PSD's recommendations for modifications to the energy policy.

- **Franklin County Line Upgrade update:** Ms. Louiselle shared that the VELCO filed a 45-day advanced notice for the Franklin County Line Upgrade Project, and intends to submit a petition for a Certificate of Public Good in the fall.
- **Legislative Update:** Ms. Louiselle provided an update on the following:
 - **Clean Heat Standard:** The PUC opened two cases to begin development of the Clean Heat Standard. Case 23-2220-INV has been opened to complete Rulemaking for the Standard, and is expected to be the umbrella case that involves the most public participation and open comments. Case 23-2221-INV has been opened for the Department to complete a potential study of clean heat opportunities in the state, and to identify cost(s) for a Default Delivery Agent. The commission has opened these proceedings with several process questions and are looking for participation from a wide variety of stakeholders. There are over 70 tasks, reports, rulemaking and ordering stipulations in the Clean Heat Act for the PUC to complete, so this will be the first of many such information requests by the Commission.
 - **Legislative Renewable Energy Standard Working Group:** Act 33 of 2023 establishes the Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy Standard Reform to draft legislation to be considered by the Legislature in 2024. The Joint Fiscal Office is expected to begin forming the working group, and initiate the meetings during the Summer/Fall.
 - **Cybersecurity Advisory Working Group:** Act 71 created the Cybersecurity Advisory Council to advise on the state's cybersecurity infrastructure, best practices, communications protocols, standards, training and safeguards. The Council will be composed of a cross-agency group, including the Agency of Digital Services, electric sector, municipal water system, Vermont hospital, supply chain business, VT Emergency Management, Homeland Security, VT Adjutant General, Attorney General, VT Information Technology Leaders. Among other responsibilities, the Council is required to develop a strategic plan for protecting the State's public sector and private sector information and systems from cybersecurity attacks, evaluate statewide cybersecurity readiness, and conduct an inventory and review of cybersecurity standards and protocols for critical sector infrastructures.

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

- *Tim Duggan, Residential representative
- *Taylor Newton, Regional Planning rep
- *Johanna Miller, Environmental representative
- **Steve Crowley, Environmental representative

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- *Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Kamran Hassan, GMP

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

- *Bill Powell, WEC
- *Munir Kasti, BED
- **Brad Williams, BED

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

- Sarah Braese, VPPSA
- Brian Evans-Mungeon, Hyde Park

Supply & Demand Resources

- *Dave Westman, EVT

Non-Voting Members

- Philip Picotte, PSD
- Lou Cecere, PSD

Staff

- Shana Louiselle, VELCO

Guests

- Adam Jacobs, PSD
- Anne Margolis, PSD
- Brad Marszalkowski, ISO-NE
- Brad Williams, BED
- Dan Kopin, VELCO
- Dan Nelson, VELCO
- David Carpenter, Green Lantern Solar
- David Mullett, AllEarth Renewables
- Dominic Gatti (VT PUC)
- Dylan Zwicky, Leonine
- Heather D'Arcy, VPPSA
- Jay Pilliod, EVT
- John Dasaro, Village of Enosburg
- Jonathan Dowd, REV
- Kerrick Johnson, VELCO
- Khalid Osman, VELCO
- Lou Cecere, DPS
- Luke Looman, VELCO
- Ian Lund, State of Vermont
- Marc Allen, VELCO
- Michael Gadway, Ludlow Electric
- Michael Lazorchak, Stowe Electric Department
- Morgan Casella, DO
- Paul Nadeau, BED
- Robert Ide, National Grid
- Ryan Darlow, VERA
- Sarah Adams, ISO-NE
- TJ Poor, PSD
- Tom Petraska, Ludlow Electric
- Warren Coleman, MMR
- William Jerome
- Zakia El Omari, VELCO