

# VERMONT SYSTEM PLANNING COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 9:30 AM  
HOLIDAY INN, RUTLAND

## APPROVAL OF THE JUNE, 2008, MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) was held on September 10, 2008, at the Holiday Inn located in Rutland, Vermont. Deena Frankel called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Ken Mason moved and Dean LaForest seconded approval of the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved without objection.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Members present in person and by phone introduced themselves. A list of attendees by sector appears on page 6 of these minutes.

## ACTION ITEMS

### ***PSB briefing on VSPC***

Ms. Frankel presented a proposed letter to the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) requesting an opportunity for the VSPC to meet with the PSB to discuss informally the implementation of the Docket 7081 process and the progress to date in establishing the VSPC. The letter is the result of discussions held at the last VSPC meeting and subsequently by the Technical Coordinating Subcommittee recognizing the importance, in light of the fact transmission projects go before the PSB for approval as part of the Section 248 process, of keeping the PSB fully informed and aware of how the VSPC process is developing, its successes and practical impacts. It was confirmed that the format of the presentation to be given to the PSB would include Ms. Frankel describing what the VSPC is about and each subcommittee chair presenting information relevant to its area. It was also confirmed that all members would be invited to attend, and that notice of the meeting would be sent to a very broad group. A discussion was held regarding the content of the letter and changes were recommended to remove the implications that the Board would not be able to meet with the VSPC in the future once Section 248 proceedings on projects that had come before the committee were under formal consideration. It was agreed that staff could make the necessary amendments to the letter without further deliberation by the group.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER TO THE PSB WITH AMENDMENTS: Bruce Bentley moved and Tom Buckley seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### ***NTA Screening Tool Subcommittee***

The group discussed whether or not it was appropriate to dissolve the NTA Screening Tool Subcommittee now that its work is completed. There was a general concern about dissolving prematurely since there hasn't been much experience in using the screening tool. Mr. Bentley assured the group that the members of the subcommittee would still be participating in the VSPC and available for questions.

MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE NTA SCREENING TOOL SUBCOMMITTEE: Mr. Buckley moved and Mr. Bentley seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### ***Letter from VSPC to PSB Regarding Geo-Targeting***

Mr. Bentley provided a brief history of geo-targeting. Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) and Green Mountain Power (GMP) sent a letter dated August 20, 2008, to the PSB requesting the Board to consider the continuation and expansion of targeted energy efficiency including proposed potential targets. The PSB circulated the letter to the Energy Efficiency Utility (EEU) e-mail distribution list requesting comments. Ms. Frankel presented a proposed letter to be sent by the VSPC to the PSB supporting the letter previously sent by CVPS and GMP, urging continuation and expansion of targeted energy efficiency.

TJ Poor reported that the DPS is developing an evaluation plan for the process of geo-targeting; how it works; how much efficiency was gained and whether or not geo-targeting actually deferred or avoided transmission and distribution (T&D) investments. The DPS plans to work with the VSPC on the project.

CVPS requested an edit in the letter to change "South Rutland" to "Rutland." The committee requested that the letter include reference to the original geo-targeted areas.

MOTION TO SEND THE LETTER TO THE PSB FROM THE VSPC REGARDING GEO-TARGETING WITH RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS: Jenny Cole moved and Mr. Bentley seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### ***Follow-up on ISO-NE Response to VSPC Letter***

Ms. Frankel reported on the letter received from the New England Independent System Operator (ISO-NE). The letter was addressed to the VSPC and also to the PSB. The original letter from the VSPC to ISO-NE may have inadvertently implied that the VSPC has a more institutional connection to the PSB than is actually the case. Ms. Frankel reported that she discussed the matter with the PSB, which has indicated it is writing a letter to ISO-NE clarifying the process and nature of the relationship between the VSPC and PSB. The PSB is interested in the proposed meeting with ISO-NE; however, its participation depends on the agenda. Since the PSB has regulatory authority over the VSPC, and member utility projects require Board approval, the Board does not want to create any conflicts. The group discussed the scheduling details of the meeting. Ms. Frankel recommended delegating the details to either the Technical Coordinating Subcommittee or the Energy Efficiency & Forecasting Subcommittee.

MOTION TO PROCEED WITH ACCEPTING THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH ISO-NE: Benjamin Marks moved and Mr. LaForest seconded that the VSPC accept the ISO-NE offer to meet with ISO-NE representative Stephen Rourke. The Motion was approved without objection.

The group discussed the details of the meeting. There was a general consensus that a broad group should be invited to the meeting and that the details of the meeting be arranged by the Technical Coordinating Subcommittee.

### ***Development of a means to obtain greater clarity of processes required by the Docket 7081 MOU***

Ms. Frankel presented a proposal from the Technical Coordinating Committee to provide a process for increasing clarity on how certain steps stated in the MOU will work in practice. There was a consensus in the Technical Coordinating Committee that there are many areas in the MOU where the actual process and interpretation are ambiguous. Ms. Frankel presented a memo she prepared attempting to capture some of the ambiguous provisions of the Docket 7081 MOU. The group discussed the need for a process and procedures manual that could be updated from time to time and how a manual may answer some of the questions regarding when the process starts; how you know you have successfully gone through the VSPC process; and who has the final say that you have completed the process. Furthermore, such a document would be beneficial if compliance with the MOU was ever challenged.

Ms. Frankel indicated that further questions would be sought from the group via e-mail. There was a discussion regarding the development of a “strawman” proposal, followed by one or more workshops, with the goal of having something to present at the VSPC December meeting. The Technical Coordinating Subcommittee would be responsible for scheduling details. The group discussed the importance of not using the process to reopen issues that were decided in the MOU.

MOTION TO DEVELOP A PROCESS DESCRIPTION/PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR THE DOCKET 7081 MOU USING THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY THE TECHNICAL COORDINATING SUBCOMMITTEE: Mr. LaForest moved and Ms. Cole seconded. The Motion was approved without objection.

The group discussed when a study is considered complete; when a project is considered complete; timelines in general; and opportunities for comment. The group agreed that that the process would explicitly include the Procedures Subcommittee.

### ***Project Priority List – Study Groups***

Three projects were identified on the Project Priority List as falling within the timeframe for completion before the next update of the VELCO Long-Range Transmission Plan (LRTP) to be published in July, 2009, which will then trigger another Project Priority List. The group discussed the process for developing the LRTP and opportunities for input by the VSPC. It was agreed that, based on the projects’ status and timelines, no further study groups need to be formed to address projects in the current Project Priority List.

### ***Appointment of Committee Chairs***

MOTION TO APPOINT BENJAMIN MARKS AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE AND T.J. POOR AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY & FORECASTING COMMITTEE: Mr. LaForest moved and Jonathan Elwell seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Energy Efficiency & Forecasting Subcommittee***

Mr. Poor, chairperson, presented the report of the Energy Efficiency & Forecasting Subcommittee. Most of the substance of the subcommittee meeting was addressed during the discussions on geo-targeting. CVPS presented to the subcommittee on the areas referenced in the letter to the PSB regarding geo-targeting. There was also a report on Forecast 20, which is Efficiency Vermont’s 20-year forecast of electric savings from statewide Demand-Side Management (DSM). Mr. Poor reported a concern that Forecast 20 uses an ISO-NE definition of peak as opposed to a statewide or zonal definition peak, resulting in the need to translate. The issue will be addressed at a later date. It was also indicated that a plan for public review of Forecast 20 will be detailed at a future time. The group further discussed geo-targeting, Forecast 20, and ISO peak versus statewide peak.

### ***Generation Subcommittee***

James Gibbons, chairperson, presented the report of the Generation Subcommittee. Mr. Gibbons reported on VELCO’s presentation to the subcommittee, and proposed a follow-up meeting. The presentation can be found on the VSPC website. There was general discussion on modeling. The second meeting between VELCO and the Generation Subcommittee will be held to discuss modeling.

### ***Procedures Subcommittee***

Mr. Marks, chairperson, presented the report of the Procedures Subcommittee. There was nothing new to report at this time but he recognized the work before the group as a result of the assignment received today

to assist in the development of a procedures manual for the VSPC. It was also noted that the confidentiality agreement will be circulated amongst the members.

### ***Public Participation Subcommittee***

Ms. Cole, chairperson, presented the report of the Public Participation Subcommittee. The subcommittee is requesting input from members on the VSPC website. A public information package is in draft form and available on the website. Ms. Cole requested that members take the opportunity to review and comment on the package. There was a discussion of scheduled activities including participation at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) "Town Fair" to be held on October 2, 2008. Ms. Cole also reported that an article on the VSPC had been published in the VLCT newsletter. Public outreach for the LRTP is in the planning stages.

Ms. Frankel reported that VELCO presented to the subcommittee a plan for the public outreach process it will be using when the 2009 LRTP is published, which includes extensive public outreach, public meetings and focus groups, and electronic communications tools. The discussion at the Public Participation Subcommittee meeting resulted in a modification in the timeline for the LRTP. In order to give ample opportunity to incorporate public comments, the date for active public outreach has been change to end on April 30, 2009, instead of May 31, 2009. This will provide adequate time to incorporate or respond to all public comments.

Ms. Frankel also reported that the subcommittee is considering putting the technical portion of the LRTP on a CD, with hard copies of the document provided upon request. It was suggested that, rather than producing CDs, the summary report should provide a link to download the technical report. The group discussed the ability of the public to access the document via the web, in particular those who do not have broadband. It was discussed that many libraries have public computers, and often request a paper copy to have available to the public. There was a consensus from the group that a web link was acceptable, with CD and hard copy available upon request.

### ***Transmission Subcommittee***

Hantz Pr sum , chairperson, indicated that the transmission subcommittee had not met and so had no report.

### ***Technical Coordinating Subcommittee***

Ms. Frankel, chairperson, reported for the Technical Coordinating Subcommittee. Ms. Frankel asked members whether there was any interest in the group discussing an emerging issue in this region regarding non-reliability, or so-called "economic" transmission, designed to bring power from remote sources, such as Canada and northern Maine to southern New England markets. The group discussed the fact that, although the VSPC would not be part of the decision making regarding any of these projects, it should be aware of the projects and the impacts on the region. The group agreed that they would like to have someone who has an expertise on this issue to present to a subcommittee.

## PROJECT STUDY GROUP REPORTS

### ***Coolidge Connector Interim Demand Response Study Group***

Mr. Bentley, chairperson, reported that has been a problem getting the study group together. To address this problem, Mr. Bentley presented details on the project to the VSPC. There currently is no consensus on what is needed; where it is needed and who pays for it. The affected utilities agreed to get together to discuss the project. There was a general discussion regarding the project and who would likely be the affected utilities. It was recognized that BED, CVPS and GMP are the primary parties, but almost all of the utilities are ultimately affected.

Ms. Frankel noted that Mr. Bentley's suggestion by email that the VSPC might need to use Paragraph 33 of the MOU to determine cost allocation is a subject that should be included in those to be clarified by the procedures discussion, since the Coolidge Connector Interim Demand Response Project did not clearly fit into the MOU framework. The parties concerned with the Coolidge Demand Response issue agreed to meet informally initially.

### ***Gorge Area Reinforcement (GAR)***

Mr. Marks reported that Section 248 petition has been submitted to the Public Service Board and pre-hearing conference has been held. There are a couple of placeholders in the schedule for further development of GMP's NTA analysis and the possibility of a generation option. Further information can be found on the PSB website.

### ***Lyndonville Update***

Mr. Mason reported that, since the last VSPC meeting, Lyndonville Electric Department (LED) entered into a three-party confidentiality agreement with CVPS and VELCO. Discussions have been ongoing regarding cost allocation, and Mr. Mason believes they will be finalized soon. Mr. Mason referred to his letter to the VSPC dated September 5, 2008, wherein a recommended design was proposed to the VSPC. This proposal could change depending on the development plans of Burke Mountain.

### ***New Haven/Weybridge Reliability Project***

Rip Kirby of CVPS made a presentation on the proposed CVPS Middlebury/New Haven Reliability Project. Mr. Kirby fielded questions from the group regarding the project and application of the NTA screening tool. There was considerable discussion amongst members regarding the NTA screening tool and what qualifies as an NTA analysis. Ms. Frankel reported a discussion within Technical Coordinating that when a utility had performed an NTA analysis and a project had been screened out, the utility should notify the Technical Coordinating Committee. The Technical Coordinating Committee would then set up a meeting for interested parties to understand how that conclusion was reached and provide an opportunity for questions. CVPS's presentation was informal and not intended for that process at the current meeting, but Technical Coordinating can schedule such a meeting as necessary. There was a discussion about an exemption in the MOU regarding radial systems. Based on the language of the MOU, the Lyndonville project is likely not exempt. The group recognized once again that it is evident that the process needs to be further clarified.

Ms. Frankel recommended that since a number of issues with the NTA screening were identified at this meeting, another meeting should be scheduled and that the Technical Coordinating Subcommittee would arrange.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was identified.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

\*Indicates voting member at this meeting

\*\*Indicates Alternate

### **Public Sector**

\*Jenny Cole, Public Member- Residential

\*James Moore, Environmental (via telephone)

### **Transmission Utility (VELCO)**

\*\* Dean LaForest, VELCO

\*Hantz Presume, VELCO

Kim Moulton, VELCO

Chris Diebold

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

\*Bruce Bentley, CVPS

\*\*Kim Jones, CVPS

Rip Kirby, CVPS

Morris Silver, CVPS

Brian Keefe, CVPS

\*Doug Smith, GMP

Ben Marks, GMP

\*\*Terry Cecchini, GMP

\*Harry Abendroth, VEC

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

James Gibbons, BED

\*\*Tom Buckley, BED

### **Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)**

\*Richard Sutor, Village of Northfield Electric

Proxy for Village of Ludlow Electric

\*Kenneth Mason, Village of Lyndonville Electric

Proxy for Village of Morrisville

Proxy for Town of Johnson

Proxy for Town of Hardwick

\*Ellen Burt, Town of Stowe Electric (via telephone)

\*Jonathan Elwell, Village of Enosburg

### **Non-Voting Members**

Dave Lamont, DPS

John Spencer, VEPPPI (SPEED facilitator)

Bill Jordan, DPS

Steve Litkovitz, DPS

TJ Poor, DPS

Niko Dietsch, Consultant for DPS

George Nagle, DPS

Blair Hamilton, EEU (via telephone)

### **Staff**

Deena Frankel, VELCO

Kimberly Pritchard, VELCO