



**ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION &  
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

January 31, 2022

**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by the Public Utility Commission in Docket 7081 as amended<sup>1</sup>, this document comprises the annual report of the Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) detailing activities undertaken in 2021.

Among its provisions, the Docket 7081 MOU requires that the VSPC provide a report to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Public Service Department (PSD) by February 15 of each year and post that report on the VSPC website. The report must consist of at least the following:

89. A report on each Reliability Deficiency identified to date in the [Long-Range Transmission] Plan or through the process described in Steps 1 through 6, above, including:
  - i. The status of NTA [Non-Transmission Alternative] Analysis for the Reliability Deficiency.
  - ii. The status of decision-making on the selection of alternative(s) to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - iii. The status of decision-making on the allocation of costs of the alternative to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - iv. The strategy chosen for implementing the alternative selected to address the Reliability Deficiency.

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<sup>1</sup> Investigation into Least-Cost Integrated Resource Planning for Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.'s Transmission System. Amended 1/30/2012, 8/1/2012 & 11/6/2013 & Docket 8875 Order of 6/13/2018.

- v. The status of implementation of the alternative(s) to address the Reliability Deficiency.
  - vi. All documentation pursuant to paragraph 86, above, relating to advisory votes within the preceding calendar year.<sup>2</sup>
90. A statement of the dates and locations of all VSPC meetings held during the preceding year.<sup>3</sup>

In 2014, the Commission approved a recommendation by the VSPC, designed to harmonize reporting procedures, that the VSPC annual report incorporate annual utility updates on areas that have been approved for energy efficiency geographical targeting.<sup>4</sup> At this time, no area of the state is designated for energy efficiency geographic targeting so no such annual utility updates are provided for the current year.

This document represents the VSPC annual report on the status of transmission and non-transmission analysis, solution selection, cost allocation, and implementation planning of all identified reliability deficiencies as required by the MOU, as well as the meetings and organizational work of the VSPC during 2021.

## VSPC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MEETINGS AND PROCESS

The past year was the fourteenth full year of VSPC operation. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and federal and state guidance to contain the virus, the VSPC moved to virtual meetings in March 2020 and continued to meet remotely in 2021. During this year, the major activities and accomplishments of the Committee included:

- Provided input to Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) in its draft 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Participated in a two-month VSPC review process specified in the MOU, prior to release of the public review draft.
- Developed, and filed on November 8, 2021, the annual geographic targeting recommendations to the Commission. The Geographic Targeting Subcommittee developed the recommendations following a full review of transmission and subtransmission issues, as established in Docket 7081, and distribution issues, as established in Docket 7873/7874.
- Received regular briefings on a variety of current policy proceedings, such as the PUC Rule 5.500 Interconnection draft rule, the PUC Energy Storage Rulemaking, the Vermont Climate Action Plan, and the Public Service Department's updated Comprehensive Energy Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> ¶ 86 requires the VSPC to take advisory votes to resolve disputes regarding determinations of affected utilities and cost allocation.

<sup>3</sup> Docket 7081 MOU at 35-36.

<sup>4</sup> Docket EEU-2013-11, In re: VSPC Geographic Targeting Improvement Analysis, 1/24/2014.

- Heard presentations on a wide variety of energy-related initiatives, studies and reports including: ISO-NE’s *Transition to the Future Grid* studies, communications protocols and control infrastructure essential to aggregation of distributed energy resources, regional transmission investments and cost allocation methodology in New England, and federal legislation regarding electric transmission infrastructure investments.
- Updated participants regularly on significant policy developments at ISO-NE, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) with regular participation by an ISO-New England (ISO-NE) representative, and briefings by VELCO. Topics of particular focus included: FERC Order 2222, behind-the-meter load reconstitution, cluster study requirements to monitor the cumulative impacts of distributed generation on the transmission system, NERC-proposed reliability guidelines, and FERC’s Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Interregional Planning, Generator Interconnection and Cost Allocation Initiative.

The VSPC held the following full committee meetings during 2021:

1/27/2021	Virtual quarterly meeting
4/21/2021	Virtual quarterly meeting
7/21/2021	Virtual quarterly meeting
10/27/2021	Virtual quarterly meeting

The subcommittees of the VSPC met throughout the year as follows:

- Coordinating Subcommittee: The Coordinating Subcommittee met on January 15, April 9, July 9 and October 13 to plan the agendas for regular VSPC meetings.
- Forecasting Subcommittee: The Forecasting Subcommittee met on August 3. The focus of the subcommittee meeting was to discuss the takeaways from the forecasting process for the 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan, and identify new sources of data to include in the 2023 Long-Range Plan forecasting effort.
- Geographic Targeting Subcommittee: The Geographic Targeting Subcommittee met on May 21 to carry out its responsibilities regarding geographic targeting recommendations to the full VSPC on energy efficiency and distributed generation.

The calendar of all VSPC meetings is posted on the VSPC website at:

<http://www.vermontspc.com/calendar>

Agendas and meeting minutes for the full VSPC meetings are posted on the VSPC website at:

<http://www.vermontspc.com/vspc-at-work/meetings>

Subcommittee agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the VSPC website at:

<http://www.vermontspc.com/vspc-at-work/subcommittees>

No advisory votes were taken in 2021.

## **REPORT ON IDENTIFIED RELIABILITY DEFICIENCIES**

Paragraph 51 of the Docket 7081 MOU requires that the VSPC, VELCO and the distribution utilities report progress on identified reliability deficiencies at least annually to the Commission. In past years, this portion of the report has included several sections detailing the status of transmission and subtransmission issues identified in the currently applicable Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. This year, however, the currently applicable plan, published in July 2021, identifies no reliability deficiencies.