



P.O. Box 6936
 Albuquerque, NM 87197
 505-263-7067
 505-343-3782 FAX
 ckenny@stargroupconsulting.com

STAR Group, LLC

Date: March 6, 2007
 To: Members of the Coolidge Connector Community Working Group
 From: Chris Kenny, Process Manager
 Re: Notes from February 26, 2007 CCCWG Meeting

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Frank Heald, Ludlow Municipal Manager	Kathy Pellett, State Representative
Richard Svec, Cavendish Town Manager	Andrew Perchlik, Renewable Energy Vermont
Thomas Kennedy, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission	Joyce Meehl, Brookline Select Board
Jack Collins, Ludlow Electric	Bill Driscoll, AIV
Dean LaForest, VELCO	Susan Spaulding, Chester Town Manager
Jeff Predom, VELCO	Jeffrey Lewis, Brattleboro Development Credit Corp.
Rip Kirby, CVPS	
Bruce Bentley, CVPS	<u>Guests Present</u>
Kerrick Johnson, VELCO	Howard Barton, Ludlow Electric
Ralph Roam, VELCO	Heath Boyer, Town of Windham
Marc Colety, Mack Molding	Richard Hahn, La Capra Associates
Sen. Alice Nitka, Windsor County	Jonathan Kleinman, Optimal Energy

The Coolidge Connector Community Working Group (“CCCWG”) met at the Cavendish Town Hall on Monday, February 26, 2007 from 4 – 6:00 p.m.

Following introductions and a review of the ground rules for the meeting, Chris Kenny advised the group that the purpose of tonight’s meeting was to hear from La Capra Associates regarding the preliminary results from the Non Transmission Alternatives (NTA) analysis that they had conducted regarding the Coolidge Connector.

Kerrick Johnson addressed the group regarding the overall outreach process to date and the relationship of the Coolidge Connector to the Southern Loop Problem Statement. Kerrick noted that VELCO had felt that it is very important

to have the NTA analysis information for the CCCWG's consideration by tonight's meeting; that VELCO had been provided with the information that the group was about to see just days earlier; and that VELCO, CVPS, and the La Capra Team had not had the opportunity to complete their evaluation of the preliminary results being presented by La Capra. As a result, Kerrick emphasized that the information being presented this evening was preliminary and would be subject to revision in the coming weeks. However, both VELCO and CVPS wanted to ensure that the CCCWG was informed of this information as soon as it became available so that the CCCWG could begin assessing the information and providing feedback as soon as possible.

Finally, in addition to asking questions and providing initial feedback at tonight's meeting, Kerrick requested that each of the CCCWG members take time between tonight's meeting and the next meeting to consider the preliminary information and to share it with members of their respective communities.

Dick Hahn of La Capra Associates, together with Jonathan Kleinman of Optimal Energy, took the group through a summary of the preliminary results of the NTA analysis. The group provided comments and asked questions throughout Mr. Hahn's and Mr. Kleinman's presentation. VELCO, CVPS, and the La Capra team are currently evaluating the preliminary results. The evaluation process has already identified areas that require adjustments, and is likely to continue to yield changes. Upon completion of the review process, the presentation will be updated and posted on the Coolidge Connector website. The CCCWG will be notified immediately when the revised draft becomes available. Further, the VELCO, CVPS, and La Capra team will discuss these changes with the CCCWG during our next meeting.

The group was asked to provide their initial thoughts concerning the information presented by Mr. Hahn and Mr. Kleinman. In addition, the group was asked to identify issues of concern or areas in which the group would like to have additional information. The comments made and issues identified included:

- Can the Southern Loop reliability issue be solved without a new transmission line?
- Is 50% Energy Efficiency to the year 2016 really going to be the status quo, as assumed by the NTA analysis?

- What about future power sources for Vermont (e.g., VY and Hydro Quebec)? Will they be available? How does the availability (or lack of availability) of these sources factor into the NTA?
- VELCO and CVPS need to do the best they can to anticipate and factor into the NTA analysis the fact that there likely will be a more robust market for emissions trading in the future, so that these costs can be factored into the NTA analysis
- The group would like VELCO and CVPS to provide their views on the possible barriers to the elements of each ARC. The group would also like to have La Capra's and Optimal's input on this issue and also agreed that they would consider this issue and would send their views on this topic to Chris
- The CCCWG feels that VELCO and CVPS need to scope each of the ARC's (Alternative Resource Configurations) in the NTA analysis to provide, as best as possible, each of the elements associated with each ARC and the anticipated timeline and/or requirements that would need to occur in order for each of these elements to be implemented
- The group would like to have a better understanding of which stakeholders will need to "buy in" to each of the elements associated with each ARC presented in the NTA analysis
- Vermont is facing at least 2 key energy issues: one is reliability of energy delivery, which is the focus of the Southern Loop Problem Statement; the other is the source(s) of future energy supply.

Regarding the sources of future energy supply for Vermont, Bruce Bentley noted that several Vermont utility companies are working on a request for proposal that will seek to address such considerations as: where can/should Vermont's future energy needs be sourced?; What type(s) of energy sources will work best for Vermont?; and How quickly can these resources be implemented?

Finally, the group was asked what they thought had gone well during today's meeting and what they would have liked to have seen done differently. The group noted the following in this "Plus/Delta" exercise:

<u>Plus</u>	<u>Delta</u>
The NTA analysis and its preliminary results were clear and very well presented	Not enough members attended
The questions asked by the group were appropriate and very useful for the discussion	
The meeting facility	

A member of the group noted that the issues being discussed by the CCCWG were of such importance that they should be presented to more individuals in the region. He offered to help by having his planning commission host one or more meetings regarding the Coolidge Connector in order to increase community awareness of the issues being discussed by the CCCWG. He also recommended that the group get in touch with other similar bodies in the area.

Chris Kenny thanked the group for their attendance and noted that the next CCCWG meeting had not yet been set, as there were several follow-up issues that VELCO and CVPS needed to discuss in order to determine when they might be able to provide CCCWG members with the additional information they requested. Mr. Kenny pledged to discuss this with VELCO and CVPS and to get back to the group with the next meeting date as quickly as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.