

**Vermont System Planning Committee
Geographic Targeting Subcommittee
May 21, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the prior meeting of the Geographic Targeting Subcommittee were approved by email.

Vermont Electric Cooperative

VEC does not have any projects that have screened in for NTAs. Cyril Brunner provided a brief overview of VEC's project screening noting three projects that will address asset management, reliability or maintenance concerns. VEC's project screening is available [here](#).

Green Mountain Power

GMP does not any projects that have screened in for NTAs. Steve Litkovitz and Kim Jones provided a brief overview of GMP's project screening including two new projects that will address asset management or reliability concerns.

GMP's Pleasant Street substation scope was expanded to replace an existing transformer due to unacceptable Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) results. GMP's Castleton substation is currently under PUC review, and the project includes approval for emergency replacement of a failed transformer.

Additionally, the East Ryegate Study has been paused, and will be completed closer to year of construction to avoid stale data and to enable further collaboration with National Grid.

GMP's project screening is available [here](#).

The group had a discussion about including additional information on the screening tool that would identify which substations are at capacity from a generation perspective (i.e. current, installed, proposed DG alongside existing transformer nameplate capacity) to bring clarity to potential opportunities for future substation upgrades.

Washington Electric Cooperative

Bill Powell reported by email that WEC has not projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority

VPPSA reported that there are not projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Burlington Electric Department

BED reported by email that there are no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Vermont Electric Department

VELCO does not have any projects that can be avoided or deferred by the use of NTAs.

Hantz Pr sum  provided an overview of the NTA screening of VELCO’s Substation Condition Assessment Projects, including upgrades to the North Rutland, Highgate, Middlebury and South Hero substations.

The North Rutland Project will include: replace existing control building, replace transformer high-side circuit switcher with a circuit breaker or circuit switcher, replace and expand existing fence, replace the protection and control system, replace AC and DC station service, install power transformer and circuit breaker monitoring systems, replace disconnect switches, and install transformer passive secondary oil containment system. The preliminary cost estimate is \$4.9M PTF and \$6.5M non-PTF.

The Middlebury Project will include: replace 115kV oil circuit breaker, remove 115kV breaker bypass switches, improvements of the protection and control system, install transformer passive secondary oil containment system, install power transformer and circuit breaker monitoring systems, and improvements of physical access control system. The preliminary cost estimate is \$14.4M.

The Highgate Project will include: improvements of the protection and control system, replace 46kV circuit breakers, replace station batteries, install circuit breaker and power transformer monitoring systems, improvements of physical access control system, and address control building space limitations. The preliminary cost estimate is \$17.4M.

The South Hero Project will include: replace 115KV oil circuit breaker, improvements of the protection and control system, install circuit breaker monitoring system, and improvements of physical access control system. The preliminary cost estimate is \$14.3M.

Because these are asset management driven projects, they all screened out of consideration for NTA alternatives. There were no objections to these findings.

Zonal Map Update

Hantz Pr sum  requested input from the subcommittee on two proposed changes to the labels on the Vermont Zonal Map – IBM and Burlington. IBM would be changed to GlobalFoundries. The Burlington Zone has garnered confusion with the Burlington Electric Department Zone. The group discussed several suggestions and agreed that Greater Burlington Zone would be an appropriate label.

NTA coordination for future transmission concerns

The group revisited the discussion about the current process guiding the subcommittee’s work, and whether modifications should be made to enable greater alignment with future transmission system concerns augmented by Vermont’s energy goals. Feedback was varied and included the following comments:

- The current process and structure of the subcommittee still works and is guided by very clear rules through Docket 7081 to allow for consideration of non-transmission alternatives;
- The process is focused on load-driven upgrades and does not include generation issues. The Generation Constraint Subcommittee provided an opportunity to explore generation constraint issues outside of a formal regulatory process;
- Are we making decisions now that will help avoid major upgrades in the next 10 years given the high load results identified in the 2021 Long-Range Plan;
- Consideration of revising the screening tool timeline to go beyond the 10-year horizon;
- Possibility to create a new path for generation constraint issues to be analyzed within the VSPC;

- Should technical/policy considerations around capacity issues be discussed at a different forum (e.g. VT CEP, PUC Interconnection Rule).

Next Steps

- The group will reconvene in July/August 2021 to continue discussion.