

# Vermont System Planning Committee

## Glossary of terms and abbreviations used in the VSPC charter

**DER — Distributed Energy Resources:** Distributed energy resources (DER) are smaller power sources and demand control systems that can be aggregated and coordinated to provide power necessary to meet regular demand. (Source: EPRI.)

**Distribution:** The final stage in the delivery of electric power, distribution carries electricity from the transmission system to individual consumers.

**Docket 7874 Screening Framework:** An attachment to the PSB Order in Docket 7874 that establishes the procedure for implementation of 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(d)(2), the procedure for the PSB to approve standard offer generation that provides “sufficient benefit” to the grid to warrant permitting outside the program’s annual cap.

**FERC — Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:** An independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity, as well as natural gas and hydropower projects. (Source: FERC.gov.)

**FERC Order 1000:** A FERC order that reforms planning, cost allocation and interregional planning of transmission facilities, and requires competitive bidding for the construction of new transmission infrastructure. For more information: <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/trans-plan.asp>

**Grid transformation:** Adaptation of the electric power grid to increasing integration of DER and renewable energy.

**ISO-NE — ISO New England:** The independent, not-for-profit company authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to serve as the Regional Transmission Organization for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and most of Maine. Its responsibilities include operating the power system, administering the electric power markets, and conducting power system planning for the region.

**IRP — Integrated Resource Plan:** A utility plan for meeting forecasted annual peak and energy demand, plus some established reserve margin, through a combination of supply-side and demand-side resources over a specified future period. Vermont utilities are required to submit an IRP to the PSB and PSD at least once every three years looking out over a 20-year horizon. (See Vermont Statutes Title 30 Section 218c.)

**L RTP — Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan:** The least cost integrated plan for the electric transmission system required to be filed by VELCO once every three years. (See Vermont Statutes Title 30 Section 218c.)

**MOU — Docket 7081 Memorandum of Understanding:** The settlement in PSB Docket 7081, Investigation into Least-Cost Integrated Resource Planning for Vermont Electric Power Company. The settlement establishes the VSPC, procedures related to screening of transmission and subtransmission issues for the potential to be resolved with NWAs and other collaborative planning processes.

**NWA — Non-Wires Alternatives:** Targeting the use of energy efficiency, and energy resources including distributed energy resources (DERs) in a specific location or geographic boundary to defer or avoid building new transmission or distribution infrastructure to resolve a reliability issue. NWAs may also include hybrid solutions that may combine some traditional capital investment and some DER components.

**NWA screening:** Preliminary review of an identified reliability issue to determine, at a high level, its potential to be resolved with an NWA.

**NWA screening tools:** A formally adopted form used to perform NWA screening. The following two screening tools have been approved for use in Vermont.

Docket 7081/VSPC Non-Transmission Alternatives screening tool required for all transmission issues and may be used for sub-transmission issues.

Docket 6290 screening tool required for all distribution issues and may be used for sub-transmission issues.

**PSB — Public Service Board:** A quasi-judicial board that supervises the rates, quality of service, and overall financial management of Vermont's public utilities: cable television, electric, gas, telecommunications, water and large wastewater companies.

**PSD — Public Service Department:** An agency within the executive branch of Vermont state government charged with representing the public interest in energy, telecommunications, water and wastewater utility matters.

**Reliability:** The ability to meet the electricity needs of end-use customers, even when unexpected equipment failures or other conditions reduce the amount of available power supply; the capability of electricity networks to withstand sudden disturbances or unanticipated losses in system components, whether caused by natural or man-made events; maintaining sufficient resources to provide end-use customers with round-the-clock delivery of electricity at the proper voltage and frequency. (Source: North American Electric Reliability Corporation.)

**Reliability deficiency:** an existing or forecasted violation, pre- or post-contingency, of applicable Bulk Transmission System or Subsystem design or operating criteria, with consideration given to the reliability and availability of individual system elements. (As defined in Docket 7081 MOU.)

**Subtransmission:** Electric system delivery components that are classified neither as transmission nor distribution.

**Transmission:** The bulk movement of electrical energy from a generating site, such as a power plant, to an electrical substation.

**VELCO — Vermont Electric Power Company:** The owner/operator of Vermont's electric transmission system.

**VSPC — Vermont System Planning Committee:** The stakeholder committee established in Docket 7081 for collaborative transmission planning, public engagement and transparency of the planning process.