

DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: August 17, 2023, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke
- **Stowe Electric Department:** Jackie Pratt
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Colin Owyang, Jaime Smyrski, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Steve Fitzhugh, Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Ken Couture (GMP), Dan Kopin (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Betsy Bloomer (VELCO), Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Abe Fitch (VELCO), Jacob Reed (VELCO), Allen Stamp (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Gunnar Tuttle (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Mike Fiske (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Jason Pew (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Burke shared a safety moment as it relates to flooding.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from July 20, 2023 for approval.

Mr. Fitzhugh moved for approval, Mr. Peter Rossi seconded, and the minutes were approved with two minor changes.

VELCO MOBILE SAFETY APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION

Mr. Abe Fitch shared the development details of the new VELCO Field Services App including Phase I that went live March 15th and the features in Phase II that are being worked through based on feedback that started June 5th. Mr. Fitch shared a live demonstration on the app.

REGIONAL BAT INITIATIVE

Mr. Jacob Reed provided an overview of the Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) which has recently been added to the endangered species list. Mr. Reed provided a background on the NLEB and the regulation changes that went into effect on March 31st, 2023, including limiting tree cutting to winter months during bat habitation. Collectively, the Northeast Utility Group is working on a Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit. Mr. Reed ended sharing the potential impacts to the distribution and sub-transmission work.

DRONE TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Reed shared VELCO's Drone program, FAA regulations the VELCO drone fleet, the use of drones during comprehensive inspections and future drone applications. Mr. Reed and Mr.

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Fitch are the two certified drone pilots for VELCO.

CLUSTER STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Hantz Pr sum  provided a cluster study update including 2023 PV forecast for New England and Vermont stating that New England net loads projected to drop below 2,000MW in 10 years. ISO-NE is requesting more distributed generation details. ISO-NE is proposing a tariff change that all distribution-connected projects should proceed through the state interconnection process creating visibility to the ISO and stakeholders. Mr. Pr sum  shared distributed generation more than 1MW by zone, at transmission substations and distribution substations highlighting those triggering the 20MW threshold. ISO-NE may request level 3 transmission studies shortly. Mr. Pr sum  recommended that the DUs provide inverter data to VELCO in anticipation of future transmission level studies. OC members discussed the need to address cost allocation issues with respect to studies and upgrades.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Jason Pew introduced the background for a newly formed group, New England T&D Technical Forum. This forum was created to discuss potential issues on the high-voltage transmission system that could be found in real-time due to the limited dispatch of traditional generation. During light loads with little traditional generation online high-voltage can be a problem and could cause the dispatch of generation for voltage control; a cost that is born by the impacted Local Control Center.

A specific example from recent history was discussed and the distribution operator within the affected area took action to mitigate a post-contingent high-voltage System Operating Limit (SOL). The impact of the distribution facilities on the high-voltage system is beginning to be felt in real-time and therefore this group was formed to discuss options and maintain awareness from those directly involved.

VERMONT NEEDS ASSESSMENT & OPEN ACTION ITEM REVIEW

No Update

ISO UPDATE

No Update

PNNL PROJECT UPDATE

PNNL sub-committee is meeting this coming Monday.

VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE

No update

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

Next meeting

Date: September 21, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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Possible topics for discussion

- New England T&D Technical Forum (Jason Pew)
- VELCO facility outage risk mitigation (Jason Pew)
- VELCO Operations Monthly highlights – standing agenda item
- Needs Assessment & Open Action Item review – standing agenda item (by exception)
- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item (by exception)
- ISO update (by exception)
- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness update – standing agenda item (by exception)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Gibbons moved to adjourn, Mr. Burke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Smyrski
VELCO OC Secretary