

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):** Jason Pew, Jaime Smyrski, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Ken Couture (GMP), Emily Stebbins-Wheelock (BED), Kris Smith (VEC), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Jon Mero (VELCO), Betsy Bloomer (VELCO), Gunner Tuttle (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Mike Fiske (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Frank Etori (VELCO)

OPENING REMARKS

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

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Dunn shared a safety moment regarding snow tires.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Dunn presented the meeting minutes from August 17, 2023 for approval.

Mr. Powell moved for approval, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection.

APPOINTMENT OF JASON PEW CHAIR

Mr. Dunn appointed Mr. Pew as Chair of the Operating Committee.

VTAM UPDATE

Mr. Sciarrotta has been appointed the VTAM administrator. He provided a brief update on the progress of the VTAM. He is still working through the document and hopes to share a redline document and in turn vote for approval at the November Operating Committee meeting.

DISASTER TECH PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Tuttle provided an update on the Disaster Tech project and next steps. We are in the final stages of signing a contract with Disaster Tech. The contract includes a 10- year license for the Disaster Tech software and the development of new features including a redesigned dashboard, the inclusion of additional hazards, machine learning wind outage model and HRRR model engineering for short-term prediction providing four updates per day, every six hours. Any distribution utility will be allowed use of this software under the agreement. This work is capital work.

DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

VELCO FACILITY OUTAGE RISK MITIGATION

Mr. Mero discussed managing risk on the Vermont Power System, including how to define and mitigate risks. He discussed the steps performed prior to an outage to ensure a safe and reliable outage. Once an outage begins, VELCO continues to monitor weather, safety of the crews, and contingency plans. The committee then discussed timing of outages.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ms. Stevens provided an Operations update including upcoming events: the Vermont Winter Readiness Task Force, GridEx VII exercise, Vermont Joint Utilities Emergency Prep annual meeting, and a load-shed tabletop exercise. Ms. Stevens also reviewed recent ISO-NE and Vermont loads.

VERMONT NEEDS ASSESSMENT & OPEN ACTION ITEM REVIEW

No Update

ISO UPDATE

Mr. Etori stated that VELCO provided an update on the K42 **project consistent with the cost estimating** methodology to the Planning Advisory Committee yesterday. **In advance of the meeting, VELCO reached out to key stakeholders to gain their support for our project.** NESCOE, HQ, Renew, the VT Department of Public Service, and Maine PUC all commented in support of our project.

At the PAC meeting ISO-NE provided an update to the 2050 transmission solutions with cost projections. In their study they have high probability overloads in Northwest Vermont and they indicated the transmission solutions, with cost estimates, to those overloads. The options for NW VT include the following:

- A rebuild of portions of the PV20 to energize @230kV and a second K43 line (New Haven to Williston)
- New 345kV transmission line from Coolidge to Essex
- New 345kV transmission line from New Haven to Essex and new 230kV line Granite to Essex

PNNL PROJECT UPDATE

No update

VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE

Discussions with Hydro Quebec are still ongoing concerning the Highgate Tie.

NEW ENGLAND T&D TECHNICAL FORUM

Mr. Pew noted that New England T&D Technical Forum is meeting this week and the slides from this meeting can be shared with the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gibbons shared a DOE funding opportunity for communities who are transmission impacted. He will forward the information to Ms. Smyrski for distribution to the full Operating Committee.

Next meeting

DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

Date: November 16, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

Possible topics for discussion

- New England T&D Technical Forum (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. Burke moved to adjourn, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Smyrski
VELCO OC Secretary