

# **DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**DATE:** October 20, 2022, 12:00 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 (SED):**
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Colin Owyang, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh, Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Cyril Brunner (VEC), Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Ken Couture (GMP), Frank Etori (VELCO), Abe Fitch (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Dan Kopin (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Michele Nelson (VELCO), Debra Perkins (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Owyang shared the importance of using handrails on stairs to prevent slips, trips, and falls.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from September 15, 2022 for approval.

Mr. Burke moved for approval, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection.

## **ISO UPDATE**

Mr. Etori discussed a presentation on the Mystic Cost of Service Agreement which had been provided by ISO-NE at the last Markets Committee noting that the cost for July was forty-eight million dollars. Mr. Etori had hoped to secure a forecast from ISO-NE, but currently that is not expected. Discussion ensued over the potential for volatility this winter with Mr. Etori noting that with the coming cold weather the payment may drop to near or at zero if Mystic makes a profit in a month. Mr. Etori also noted that ISO-NE may be doing a review to determine if this two-year contract should be terminated after year one. He will be working with the Regional Utility Group (RUG) to develop a Vermont position going forward. It was decided to keep this topic on the OC agenda through the winter with updates provided as necessary.

See presentation for details.

## **GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (GEPAC) UPDATE**

Mr. Burke provided a couple of highlights from the last GEPAC meeting:

- Public Safety Commissioner Jennifer Morrison provided a brief review of the recent issues

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that have been in the news concerning the Burlington Police Department and the Vermont State Police.

- There is focus on school safety initiatives, one of which aims to reduce school violence. Another initiative includes changing up the messaging on “run, hide, fight” putting less emphasis on hiding. Finally, there is an initiative to focus on “Stop the Bleed”.

Mr. Burke next noted GMP is on the list to receive updates from the Vermont Intelligence Center (VIC) and inquired if the other utilities also receive these updates. Not all utilities appear to be signed up to receive these updates. Mr. Nelson indicated VELCO can put together a list of notifications they receive and share this with the group at the November meeting, along with information on how to sign up for these alerts.

### **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND OPEN ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

Mr. Owyang indicated Mr. Presume had previously sent out information addressing two of the three action items from the last meeting. Ms. Stamy addressed the remaining action item noting that ISO-NE does not have the authority to regulate load power factor (LPF) below the transmission point of delivery. ISO-NE does have the authority to regulate LPF at the transmission point of delivery, which puts requirements on VELCO.

### **VTAM UPDATE**

Ms. Stamy thanked everyone for the comments she has received. Discussion ensued over a few of the comments, some of which pertained to possibly changing language within the bylaws. The original intent was to only separate out the bylaws and not provide any substantive change to the VTAM. Based on comments received, Ms. Stamy will do some research around understanding the original drafting of the bylaws to determine if a change is necessary. In particular, Ms. Stamy agreed to arrange a discussion involving Ken Nolan, James Gibbons and any other interested OC member. She will provide an update at the November meeting.

### **QUEEN CITY EVENT**

Ms. Perkins shared information on an event that occurred back in September 2022 involving a cut fence at the Queen City substation.

See presentation for details.

Following discussion, Mr. Nelson agreed to circulate to OC members information for how to sign up for various e-mail alerts regarding security incidents impacting the industry.

### **PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABS (PNNL)**

Mr. Connaughton and Mr. Nelson shared some slides outlining the value proposition of the PNNL project as well as the current technology strategy at VELCO.

See presentation for details.

### **DISASTER TECH, INC.**

Ms. Nelson reviewed a pro forma financial analysis with the group so members could have a better sense of their individual investment case. A discussion ensued over the types of information available through the program and what VELCO would find most useful. Members

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agreed that, with the exception of customer outage forecast information, they will each share the information they receive from this engagement with VELCO in order to make the investment usable and useful to VELCO. Mr. Owyang indicated he will work with Mr. Shafer on the scope.

### **VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE**

No update.

### **TELECOM WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

No update.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Open discussion**

- None

#### **Next meeting**

**Date:** November 17, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

#### **Possible topics for discussion**

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item (by exception)
- ISO update, including any update on Mystic Cost of Service Agreement (by exception)
- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness update – standing agenda item
- Vermont OP7 walk through (November) by Ms. Stevens
- Communications on controlled outages (November) by Mr. Johnson or delegate
- Franklin County Line Upgrade (November) by Mr. Mallory
- Tafts Corner Project – Mr. McGann
- VTAM Update (November) by Ms. Stamy

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Fitzhugh moved to adjourn, Mr. Burke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens  
VELCO OC Secretary