

# **DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**DATE:** January 19, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons, Munir Kasti
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke, Josh Castonguay
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):** Brent Lilley
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh, Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Betsy Bloomer (VELCO), Sarah Braese (VPPSA), Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Ken Couture (GMP), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Frank Etori (VELCO), Mike Fiske (VELCO), Brian Hall (VEC), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Dan Kopin (VELCO); Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Ken Nolan (VPPSA), Jason Pew (VELCO), Jackie Pratt (Stowe), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Jason Shafer (DisasterTech), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Dunn verified a quorum of the Operating Committee Members and called the meeting to order at 1:26 p.m.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Dunn shared snow is in the forecast. He reminded everyone to use caution when driving and to consider snow tires and emergency kits for their vehicles.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Dunn presented the meeting minutes from November 17, 2022 for approval.

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

## **STORM ELLIOTT DEBRIEF**

Mr. Dunn opened the topic by asking the utilities to provide a brief overview of storm highlights from their perspective.

VEC: Mr. Rossi indicated winter storm Elliott was not one of VEC's biggest storms, but it was one of the top ten. He noted this storm was of similar comparison to the 2017 October storm Philippe. Mr. Rossi noted that system improvements made over the last several years helped to reduce the number of outages experienced by this storm. Mr. Rossi also highlighted the use of mutual aid in response to this storm.

VPPSA: Mr. Fitzhugh shared that some of their members were impacted by the storm while others had minimal impact. He noted there was a great amount of assistance across the area and appreciated the response by all.

BED: Mr. Gibbons shared that BED did experience some outages during the storm and noted that

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BED was able to share some of their crews with other utilities.

GMP: Mr. Burke indicated that if the two storms were considered separately, they would be GMP's 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> biggest storms. If considered one storm, it would be GMP's biggest storm overall. During the first storm, GMP had approximately 180 external crews plus an additional 75 internal crews mobilized. Mr. Burke noted that this was a pretty severe event with both storms combined.

VELCO: Mr. Pew shared that winter storm Elliott had limited impact on the transmission lines, having more impact on the subtransmission lines.

### **VTAM**

Ms. Stamy provided a brief overview of the proposed revisions to the VTAM, including revisions made to address comments received. Ms. Stamy asked if the group would be willing to vote to recommend the proposed revisions for the next round of commenting, which would include sending the proposed changes to the individuals (and their substitutes) listed in Appendix I of the VTAM. Mr. Rossi made a motion to send the VTAM around for the next round of comments, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the motion was approved without objection.

### **DISASTER TECH**

Mr. Connaughton indicated Dr. Shafer was here to build upon a previous discussion with the OC. Dr. Shafer then shared a presentation, along with a brief demo, outlining intended use cases and capabilities. The overview also provided an outline of project phasing.

Mr. Connaughton noted VELCO has received a draft agreement and believes the formation of a project scoping subcommittee would be beneficial. The subcommittee would be tasked with reviewing and refining the scope of work, along with gaining an idea on the level of effort required by all parties involved including resource and data requirements. Mr. Connaughton asked that anyone interested in being a part of the subcommittee send their email contact information to either himself or Mr. Pew as soon as possible to allow for the team to be formed to scope the work and report back by the February OC meeting.

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

No update provided.

### **ISO UPDATE**

No update provided.

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

No update provided.

### **VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE**

Mr. Rossi asked Mr. Pew if there was any update on establishing the Highgate Tie to be used during an emergency. Mr. Pew indicated it was currently in ISO-NE's hands, but he would follow up on this topic.

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## **TELECOM WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

No update provided.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Open discussion**

- None

### **Next meeting**

**Date:** February 16, 2023, 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 (by exception)
- Tafts Corner Project Spare T3 Transformer Proposed Option #4
- Franklin County Line Upgrade
- Nomination and election of Stowe member to OC
- DisasterTech Scoping Subcommittee update

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Gibbons moved to adjourn, Mr. Rossi seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens  
VELCO OC Secretary