

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: February 16, 2023, 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):** Brent Lilley
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Colin Owyang, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Betsy Bloomer (VELCO), Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Frank Etori (VELCO), Mike Fiske (VELCO), Dave Haas (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Dan Poulin (VELCO), Jackie Pratt (Stowe), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.)

OPENING REMARKS

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

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Owyang shared that the changing weather, along with changing temperatures, can be impactful to dirt roads and this should be considered when traveling them.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from January 19, 2023 for approval.

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

OC MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

- Election of Tina Stevens as Vice Chair
 - Mr. Gibbons made a motion to elect Ms. Stevens as Vice Chair of the OC, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the motion was approved without objection.
- Election of Jackie Pratt (Stowe Electric)
 - Mr. Owyang noted Stowe Electric Department has nominated Ms. Pratt to be Stowe’s Member and Mr. Lilley to be the Alternate on the OC. Mr. Gibbons moved for approval, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the motion was approved without objection.
- Appointment of Jaime Smyrski as Secretary
 - Mr. Owyang designated Ms. Smyrski as Secretary of the Operating Committee.

TAFTS CORNER SPARE T3 TRANSFORMER

Mr. Haas provided an overview of the Tafts Corner 115/12.47kV transformer backup solution. The overview included the impact of maintenance on the Tafts Corner 115/12.47kV T2 transformer, the impact for contingency loss of the Tafts Corner 115/12.47 T2 transformer, and

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

an overview of the Tafts Corner T3 Project that is planned for commissioning in 2024.

See presentation for details.

SCAP UPDATE

Mr. Poulin provided an update on the substation condition assessment project. The update included the current overall schedule, along with anticipated scopes of work for both St. Johnsbury and Windsor.

See presentation for details.

DISASTERTECH SCOPING SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Owyang indicated an email had been sent to OC members requesting contact information for anyone interested in joining the subcommittee. Contact information should be sent to Mr. Connaughton. The subcommittee will be kicking off in the near term. Mr. Connaughton noted the first meeting is scheduled for March 1st.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & OPEN ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Mr. Presume indicated ISO-NE did an addendum to the scope in response to comments by VELCO and will be studying a winter peak. Mr. Presume noted that for New England, the winter peak is approximately 6% lower than the summer peak but for Vermont, the winter peak is approximately 20% higher than the summer peak.

There was some discussion around load shapes and whether or not load management would be part of the study. Mr. Presume indicated ISO-NE will not consider load management as part of this study.

ISO UPDATE

Mr. Ettori provided a couple of updates:

- Due to rising Regional Network Service (RNS) costs, New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) has asked for better process improvement and transparency on asset condition related projects.
- As a result of the December 24th and February 4th cold snaps, and New England exporting to Hydro Quebec during the February 4th cold snap, the Hydro Quebec Interconnection Capacity Credits and tie benefits are being challenged by the generators. VELCO expects to defend these Hydro Quebec ICCs and tie benefits.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABS (PNNL) PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Stamp indicated the phase II work which is funded by the Department of Energy (DOE) will be kicking off in the next few months. They are scheduling a DOE visit to Vermont in early May. There are also ongoing discussions around scope.

VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE

Mr. Rossi indicated there is no update. VEC is waiting for a resolution on establishing the Highgate Tie. This is currently in ISO-NE's hands.

TELECOM WORKING GROUP

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

Mr. Rossi indicated longevity of the program is not covered under the current scope of work and asked that a discussion be added to next month's agenda concerning:

- Managing generator installations that occur after project completion. Who will be responsible for bringing fiber in and covering associated costs.
- Managing requests from ISO-NE for additional information in the future. Will this be another project?

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- None

Next meeting

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Possible topics for discussion

- Needs Assessment & Open Action Item review (by exception)
- ISO update (by exception)
- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness update (by exception)
- Telecom Working Group (by exception)
- Franklin County Line Upgrade by Scott Mallory
- Longevity of the fiber reliability program, to address managing future generator installations and requests from ISO-NE for additional information by Dan Nelson

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Gibbons moved to adjourn, Mr. Burke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens
VELCO OC Secretary