

# **FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**DATE:** August 18, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Green Mountain Power Montpelier, 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, Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Frank Etori, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh, Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO), Emily Stebbins-Wheelock (BED)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Dunn verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Etori shared the importance of bus safety as kids prepare to go back to school.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Dunn presented the meeting minutes from July 21, 2022 for approval.

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

## **PNNL PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Connaughton indicated an additional allotment of funds through the DOE has been received. These additional funds will be used for the second phase of the project. The second phase of the project is expected to start in 2023 and be a two year project. A draft scope has been submitted to the DOE for review. They are currently awaiting feedback on the draft scope.

## **VTAM UPDATES**

Ms. Stamy noted that the current draft of the VTAM dates back to 2013 and is need of some updates. She previously circulated a redline of the proposed changes. Changes include separating the bylaws into a stand-alone document and turning the VTAM into a cost allocation agreement. Ms. Stamy asked everyone to review the proposed changes and send her any comments they may have.

## **VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE**

Mr. Rossi indicated VEC is making progress with Hydro Quebec on establishing the Highgate Tie and increasing the Newport Tie. He expects to hear back from Hydro Quebec in the near future concerning necessary documentation, noting that the current agreement should work. Mr. Rossi noted that VELCO is still going through their analysis. There have been a few minor concerns, but

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nothing major as of yet. The primary purpose for considering increasing the Newport Tie and establishing the Highgate Tie is to potentially transfer load to Hydro Quebec in lieu of shedding load during an emergency. VEC is currently working on updates to their load shedding procedure and hope to have updates done by October. Mr. Rossi is looking for consolidated effort on both VEC's and VELCO's end to bring this issue to a close prior to October. Lastly, Mr. Rossi noted that this issue should be renamed since it is not just a winter issue.

### **TELECOM WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Mr. Stamp shared that the working group is meeting monthly. The end equipment design for WEC is complete and the group is currently looking at the design for the DER end equipment. The walk downs and survey status for WEC are complete and are underway for both GMP and VEC.

### **ISO UPDATE**

Mr. Etori provided an update:

- On Tuesday, the Regional Network Service (RNS) rate was approved, which is decreasing. The decrease is mostly due to load increase.
- Yesterday, the Reliability Committee approved, by a very small margin, storage as a transmission asset and allows for ten 30 MW sites to be approved. The limited use is as a solution to a Needs Assessment or a Transmission Study. Additionally, the storage can be used as a reactive resource for the operator in real time with no restrictions on voltage regulation.
- ISO-NE has begun changes to Planning Procedure 5-1. The impact will be that more planning will be needed in advance for solar sites 5 MW or greater which will slow down the process. This has limited impact for Vermont since most solar sites are less than 5 MW.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Open discussion**

- Mr. Dunn indicated that Mr. Etori will be stepping down as Vice Chair due to increased ISO-NE responsibilities.

#### **Next meeting**

**Date:** September 15, 2022, CFO/OC Joint Annual, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

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

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item (by exception)
- ISO update (by exception)
- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness Update – standing agenda item
- Tafts Corner Project – Ed McGann (September)
- Needs Assessment – Hantz Presume (September)
- Vermont OP7 walk through (November)
- K42 update (October)

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### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Fitzhugh moved to adjourn, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens  
VELCO OC Secretary