

Final VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: June 18, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke, Brian Otley
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):** David Kresock
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Chris Root, Frank Etori, Jason Pew
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Cyril Brunner (Northview Weather, partial), Kevin Cronin (Northview Weather, partial), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Bill Jordan (partial), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Connor Pasquale (Northview Weather, partial), Ryan Paulino (Northview Weather, partial), Hantz Presume (VELCO), Dr. Jason Shafer (Northview Weather, partial), and Ken Tripp (VEC)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Root verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Root shared a recent event with a VELCO contractor who had been carrying construction matting when he crossed the centerline and went off the road. The Driver was uninjured; however, the vehicle was likely totaled. Due to the involvement of a CDL driver, there is an ongoing investigation by both the VT DMV and the contractor; more will be known upon its completion.

CYBER SECURITY DISCUSSION

Mr. Root reported that a recent email phishing attack has been received at VELCO; the email security tools fortunately blocked the attack. It is a reminder to be careful with unknown and unexpected emails.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from May 21, 2020 for approval.

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

CYBER SECURITY UPDATE - BILL JORDAN

Mr. Jordan reported that he had an action item from his last visit to have the Cyber Document reviewed by the Department's legal team. That review had not yet been completed and he requested to return to the group next month. The group approved and agreed to add Mr. Jordan will be on the July Operating Committee agenda.

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HURRICANE FORECAST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Hurricane Forecast

Dr. Shafer of Northern Vermont University and Northview Weather introduced Connor Pasquale and Ryan Paulino, intern students who have assisted in the Hurricane forecasting.

Dr. Shafer presented the 2020 hurricane season outlook as provided by NOAA. This presentation will be made available to the OC Members. It indicated a high probability (60%) of above-normal hurricane activity for the 2020 season. Additionally, included in the presentation historical data with respect to hurricanes in proximity to (within 150 miles) VT. Those occur most often in September with activity starting as early as May and lasting as late as November with the majority between August and October.

Several historical storm tracks were reviewed that included the only two hurricanes in the past 167 years that hit VT directly with maintained hurricane strength. These VT hurricanes were both unnamed and occurred in 1893 and 1938.

Climate Change

Dr. Shafer provided a presentation on his progress thus far to evaluate climate trends within VT. Included in his research were Connor Pasquale, Ryan Paulino, and Kevin Cronin each of whom were in attendance. The basis of the findings within were generally from comparison of historical data between two periods, 1980-1999 and 2000-2019.

The scope of the project included an analysis of historic trends with forecasted projections for outage risks, extreme precipitation, and vegetation management. The presentation will be made available to the OC Members. Dr. Shafer noted that this is likely the most comprehensive study on Vermont's climate in the last 40 years.

Highlights included:

- An approximate increase in temperature through the state of 0.8F
- Statewide annual precipitation by approximately 4% (approximately 2"), mostly seen in winter
- Increase in outage risks by approximately 3%, most attributed to increases in wet snow and ice
- Historically areas prone to high winds have seen an increase in high wind events and, similarly, areas prone to wet snow and ice have had increase in wet snow and ice events
- Data indicates longer growing seasons (nearly 10% increase in late summer and fall) and associated outage risks attributed to vegetation growth

Dr. Shafer discussed his continuation of work that would include some customization of data, validation of outage risk information following receipt of additional data, further development of vegetation growth, and assessment of projections to assist with future projections.

Mr. Root reported that this would be good information to present at the Vermont Joint Utilities and State Agencies Emergency Preparation annual meeting.

Further discussions on providing this information to all of the state agencies would be beneficial. Mr. Otley and Mr. Burke reported that this information supports what had already

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been suspected and that having this type of information to reference would be helpful.

TELECOM SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Root discussed a conversation that took place with Mr. Fitzhugh regarding future broadband projects and the need to limit discussions to infrastructure. Noting that the inclusion of pricing or other strategies that could be perceived as effecting current or future markets.

Mr. Nelson reported that the OC Telecom Subcommittee's focus is on infrastructure and is not anticipated to include the topics of concern. Additionally, Mr. Rossi is reviewing the subcommittee charter and that will be brought to the OC for approval once complete.

Mr. Johnson reported that this subcommittee report out would be a standing agenda item for the OC going forward.

LOAD TRENDS IN VERMONT AND NEW ENGLAND

Mr. Etori presented recent load trends within the VELCO and New England areas.

Notable within the presentation:

- VELCO had an all-time low load hour on April 25, 2020 with 179.46 MWH at 3PM, not including the PSNH load served from the Vermont 46 kV system
- 132 of the lowest load hours have occurred in 2020
- June demand approximately 1-3% lower than normal
- March-May 2020 demand approximately 3-5% lower
- Load curves have changed shape following pandemic
- Slower morning ramp-up
- Equal daily peaks with pre-COVID levels attributed to air conditioning
- VELCO to update forecast for the rest of the year based upon this data
- Higher New England loads are better, financially, for VT Transco

Mr. Gibbons requested clarification on the updated load forecast. Mr. Etori reported he would follow-up.

ISO NEW ENGLAND UPDATE

Mr. Etori provided highlights from ISO-NE that included the following. Note the presentation is included in the meeting materials.

- Boston RFP - The first New England FERC Order 1000 competitive solicitation to resolve transmission reliability
- Off shore wind study – a study to investigate necessary transmission upgrades to interconnect 8,000 MW of offshore wind
- New England Clean Energy Connect – new and upgraded facilities required per the Proposed Plan Application were reviewed
- Load Power Factor (LPF) – proposed changes to LPF studies to use SCADA data and not rely on the manual use of survey tables and include LPF findings and follow-up to be carried out by ISO-NE's compliance department
- PV Cluster studies – review of recently approved cluster studies involving solar plants within New England that allow for shared costs of upgrades amongst the plants being

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studied

DAYMARK UPDATE

Mr. Presume reported that Daymark had been performing studies to address export constraints within the SHEI area with regard to a long-term solution. This study included the creation of software that evaluates projects based on several metrics utilized to rank each potential solution. Amongst the solutions was an upgrade of the 115kV K42 line (Highgate - Highgate Converter - St.Albans - Georgia). After discussions with the stakeholders, it was concluded that funding the K42 line upgrade project was not desired at this time.

The software developed to assist with the study will not be purchased by VELCO and remain with Daymark. The software will be accessible as needed and will include improvements for future uses.

LONG RANGE PLAN (LRP)

Mr. Presume provided an update to the development of the 2021 Vermont Long Range Transmission Plan; his presentation is available on the Operating Committee site.

Notable items:

- The Load Forecast is being developed and is on-schedule for completion later this month
- The development of the forecast was reviewed in detail which took into account the current COVID-19 environment and its effects on the economy
- New to this year's forecasting is the addition of data from solar PV production, EV charging load shape, and relevant AMI data
- Summer Peaks increase beginning 2025
- Winter Peaks increase more quickly, attributed to EV and Heat Pump loads
- The LRP is on-track for publication by July 1 of 2021 with a working draft likely available by the end of the year

VELCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Mr. Root provided an overview of the last VELCO BOD meeting. Included in the review was a financial report, COVID-19 update, and corporate and strategic KPIs.

Mr. Root inquired about other's plans for returning to their respective offices.

Mr. Otley reported that GMP has active field crews but when they are in the office, they are properly masked while others remain working at home. The Open office environment makes it difficult to bring people back.

Mr. Rossi reported that VEC has allowed two-person crews within a vehicle following all guidelines. They have allowed some to return to the office as needed but well below the allowable limit.

Mr. Gibbons reported that BED is following suit as others have reported. They continue to work on a plan to restore the BED GT in a safe manner.

Mr. Powell reported that WEC is also allowing two people to a vehicle, similar to VEC. The office does have some occupants but remains closed to the public.

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Mr. Fitzhugh reported that Northfield Electric remains in a similar posture to others.

APPOINTMENT OF VPPSA OPERATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Root referenced the request of VPPSA to update the VELCO OC representatives as follows:

- Steve Fitzhugh as primary representative
- Bill Humphrey as alternate representative

No objections were noted and the requested revisions were accepted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- Mr. Rossi requested to move the OC meeting time to the afternoon, 1pm – 3pm. All agreed. The revised times will be scheduled accordingly through the end of the year.

Next meeting

Date: July 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

Possible topics for discussion

- Mr. Jordan will report back to the group after the legal review
- Mr. Root to provide a deeper dive on corporate and strategic KPIs
- Mr. Nelson to provide standard
- Mr. Connaughton to discuss 3340 tree contact
- Mr. Pew to discuss the Vermont Joint Utilities and State Agencies Emergency Preparation annual meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Fitzhugh moved to adjourn, Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Rossi seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Pew
VELCO OC Secretary