

Final VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: November 19, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 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
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Chris Root, Frank Etori, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Kim Moulton (VELCO), Jason Pew (VELCO), Dan Poulin (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), and Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Root verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Root shared that studies indicate most accidents occur around Fridays, vacations, or holidays. With the upcoming holidays, it is important to keep this in mind. The current situation with the pandemic only adds to the stress and distraction.

Mr. Root provided a high-level summary of his understanding of the recent cyber event affecting the University of Vermont (UVM) health network. UVM was in the process of transferring records from a legacy system to a new common system. The new common system was hacked. Mr. Powell agreed the summary was accurate and indicated it was the linking of electronic records which was hacked. He indicated this situation was not unique to Vermont and that a large group of hospitals had been targeted. No additional information was available beyond the news accounts.

Mr. Root next brought up the topic of a COVID-19 vaccine once available and the need to keep essential workers in the utility industry in mind. He indicated Mr. Sciarrotta had called the general counsel to ensure the essential workers related to the utility industry were not forgotten. Mr. Root then asked if others have had conversations with government officials concerning this topic. Mr. Gibbons indicated the Burlington Mayor had a briefing yesterday and a question was raised concerning the potential vaccine and distribution plan. Mr. Otley indicated he has only had internal discussions on this topic so far. The group agreed this topic should be addressed with a unified voice from the utilities. Mr. Root proposed having Ms. Tierney, the Commissioner of the Public Service Department, advocate for the utility workers on this matter. The group expressed approval with this approach.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from October 15, 2020 for approval.

Mr. Fitzhugh moved for approval, Mr. Powell seconded, and the minutes were approved as

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presented without objection.

TELECOM WORKING GROUP

Mr. Stamp reported the group has completed the initial pass of routing and will now be reviewing the project basis. The group has a meeting scheduled for December 2nd. They are considering two data sets: one for forecasting (5-10 years) and one that considers the routing effort that has been done to date. The group is taking into account existing drivers and emerging drivers for the project, such as behind-the-meter generation and storage.

RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK, METHODS, AND METRICS FOR THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR PUBLICATION

Mr. Root provided some overview slides on a Resiliency Framework, Methods, and Metrics for the Electricity Sector Technical Report which had been prepared by the IEEE Power & Energy Society Industry Technical Support Leadership Committee Task Force. Eleven industry experts wrote this paper and Mr. Root was the final reviewer. The paper is a public document and is available on the IEEE PES Technical Resource Center.

Reliability and Resiliency are related but different. There is no one definition of Resiliency.

The NERC definition of Reliability considers:

- Adequacy – ability to meet demand
- Operational reliability – ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances such as short circuits or unanticipated loss of components
- Measured in SAIDI, CIADI, and SAIFI

The FERC definition of Resiliency: *The ability to withstand and reduce the magnitude and/or duration of disruptive events, which includes the capability to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and/or rapidly recover from such an event.*

Mr. Fitzhugh indicated reliability relates to normal operational disruption while resiliency relates to low probability events. It is harder to monetize resiliency.

The paper defines Storm Resilience as: *The speed of recovery during the first 12 hours of a storm from customers without power.* A question was asked concerning the size of the storm and the nature of the event considered. It was noted that these are not specifically stated.

It was noted that it may take some time to see how resilient you are with respect to these metrics. Mr. Fitzhugh indicated SAIDI, CIADI, and SAIFI are not designed to measure on resiliency. He also noted that VT utilities are doing this to some extent using weather analytics. Mr. Root indicated more than just weather events should be considered.

Non-storm (gray sky) focuses on robustness and the ability to withstand most normal weather and equipment events. These are the day-to-day outages that only affect a few customers. These types of outages could be an indicator of bigger issues.

New and emerging technologies:

- Integrated T&D planning with storage and DERs
- Real Time monitoring on the distribution system
- Expansion of communication systems
- Data analytics and new tools for analysis

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- Visibility of distribution system conditions from the transmission operators

A discussion ensued as to whether or not this paper should be shared with the VT regulators. The consensus was since this is a technical report and not intended to be a white paper, it would be best not to share the paper at this time.

ISO-NE BEHIND THE METER UPDATE

Mr. Etori provided an update on the transmission cost allocation issues for behind-the-meter generation. The current proposal includes a revision to the tariff language.

The guiding principles include:

- Address Internal Market Monitor (IMM) concern
- Consistent approach for transmission costs
- Minimal investment for settlement, metering, and administrative costs
- Do no harm to New England State policies

Mr. Gibbons asked if ISO Markets are in favor of the proposal. Mr. Etori responded that they had assisted with the language but will not indicate one way or the other if they approve of the approach.

A question was asked as to an example of “Do no harm to New England State policies”. Mr. Etori indicated there is no reference to a threshold limit within the language revision since this would have impacted some policies. The intent is to minimize investment in software and metering.

Mr. Etori provided an overview of the proposed language changes with respect to the tariff General Terms and Conditions. The proposed changes include a definition of Behind-the-Meter Generation Resource and an update to Regional Network Load. The language is not done as of yet and there is a call set up for next week to review.

The proposed schedule going forward:

- Nov. 17th - Participating Transmission Owners Administrative Committee (PTOAC) discussion
- Dec 10th – Introductory discussion at Transmission Committee
- January
 - PTOAC vote (to be scheduled)
 - Either vote or more discussion at Transmission Committee (Jan. 26th)
- February/March – Votes at Transmission Committee and NEPOOL Participants Committee
- March – File at FERC
- June 1, 2021 – Effective date

Mr. Powell asked a question about last month’s presentation, specifically concerning the 1 MW threshold, and whether or not this is still a consideration. Mr. Etori indicated this was an earlier proposal that is no longer under consideration. The proposal now relates to whether or not the unit is registered in the ISO markets. If the unit is not registered in the ISO markets, it can be considered behind-the-meter generation. There is no minimum or maximum limit as long as the unit isn’t registered in the ISO markets.

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IRASBURG OUTAGES DISCUSSION

Mr. Poulin reviewed VELCO's process that is used to schedule work on lines and equipment affecting a constrained area. A process was set up in 2018 and has been in use ever since. The process includes asking questions as to whether or not the work can be done live, shortened through the use of more crews, done continuous or daily, and identifying when the outage can be done outside of ISO-NE's winter period. This process was followed for the Irasburg work and outage requests have been submitted to ISO-NE.

STORAGE UPDATE

Mr. Root asked if there is a mechanism in place to track projects related to storage so that VELCO has a better awareness of such projects. These projects go through CPG review and approval. The group agreed the best way to keep VELCO updated is to receive quarterly updates at the Operating Committee.

Mr. Root then asked the group if there were any plans for bigger storage from any of the utilities at this time.

Mr. Otley indicated GMP will be building more, but similar in size as currently exists (+/- 2 MW).

Mr. Gibbons indicated BED has nothing upcoming at this time as the economics on batteries is challenging.

Mr. Rossi indicated VEC has a small one upcoming. Additionally, VEC is currently working with Mr. Nelson on some potential opportunities, but nothing concrete yet. VEC is looking to accelerate their battery program in the near future. Lastly, there is a privately owned solar battery project that is currently under construction in Jericho.

Mr. Powell indicated WEC has some residential type projects but nothing larger at this time.

Mr. Kresock indicated Stowe has several residential type projects. They are looking to install solar at their office, possibly with storage. Recently a system study was performed. This study included a battery option at a substation, but this would not be in the near future.

Mr. Fitzhugh indicated VPPSA is looking at storage through some members, but nothing specific at this time.

Mr. Root indicated VELCO is in the process of evaluating storage and whether or not it makes sense at any of the substations. Nothing concrete at this time, more of an analysis stage at the moment. Mr. Root mentioned the possibility of providing an update at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- None

Next meeting

Date: December 17, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

Possible topics for discussion

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item

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- ISO-NE Behind the Meter Update
- Storage Update – quarterly agenda item
- VELCO update on storage possibilities

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Gibbons moved to adjourn, Mr. Rossi seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens
VELCO OC Secretary