

**VELCO Operating Committee  
Final MINUTES**

October 15, 2015, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
GMP Office, Montpelier

**Participating members:** Ellen Burt (Town of Stowe Electric Department), Ken Couture (Green Mountain Power), Frank Etori (VELCO), Ken Mason via phone (Vermont Public Power Supply Authority), Ken Nolan (Burlington Electric Department), Bill Powell via phone (Washington Electric Cooperative), Jeff Wright (Vermont Electric Cooperative).

**Other participants:** Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Jeff Disorda (VELCO), Thomas Dunn (VELCO), Deena Frankel by phone (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Jacob Watrous(VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Jose Sebastiao (VELCO).

**Next Meeting**  
**November 19, 2015**  
**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**GMP Montpelier Office**

**Opening**

- Mr. Root called the Operating Committee (OC) meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

**Safety topic**

- Mr. Root pointed out the slippery conditions caused by wet leaves and the need to watch out for kids playing in piles of leaves. Mr. Etori also suggested caution on the road because of inattentive people watching the changing leaf conditions and taking pictures.

**Minutes approval**

- Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Couture seconded and all approved the September minutes as posted.

**Statewide Radio Project (SRP) update**

- Mr. Nelson discussed the enhancements that have been accomplished with the statewide radio project. He reported that VPR has turned off a 5000 watt transmitter that was causing interference for the VELCO radio system.

**Statewide emergency preparedness update**

- Mr. Couture discussed the statewide emergency preparedness meeting. He stated that the meeting went well and that people seemed very engaged in the discussion.
- Mr. Couture also discussed the recent experience of Storm Joaquin and the conduct of the NEMAG emergency call. Competition is increasing for paid crews in advance of the need.

**VELCO Board of Directors update**

- Mr. Dunn provided an update on the October VELCO Board of Directors (BOD) meeting including 2016 budget approval, VELCO projected to be on budget for this year, approval of the contract for LS cable for the Engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract for PV20 cable replacement project, new IT positions, and transmission

upgrades that may be necessary for the Anbaric third-party transmission interconnection. He also stated that Northern pass now has been modified to include 52 miles of underground as part of the project. He discussed the three-state RFP. Mr. Wright asked how the process for FERC Order 1000 public policy transmission upgrades would be implemented. Mr. Dunn also described a revision to the TDI agreement to ensure that, if the project receives regional public policy funding, our agreement will be modified to keep the agreed economics intact.

#### **ISO-NE update**

- Mr. Ettori presented the materials provided to the OC summarizing the markets, reliability, and other regional initiatives.

#### **Structure condition update**

- Mr. Disorda presented the materials provided to the OC. He discussed the process for building access roads, preparation work, and the time required to build a tangent and dead-end structure. Mr. Couture asked for Mr. Disorda to provide a point of contact for the crews and Mr. Disorda agreed to do so. VELCO has built 150 miles of access roads, and has transported approximately 50,000 mats, with approximately 50-100 contracted crew members working on a daily basis.

#### **Proposed renewable generation projects**

- Mr. Root and Mr. Sciarrotta gave a presentation on the interconnection issues associated with recently proposed renewable generation. Mr. Root discussed the load reduction affects from solar PV. The group discussed ways to resolve the SHEI limit. We discussed the Highgate under-voltage load shedding, building new transmission, or the effort to determine how much storage is necessary.
- Mr. Sciarrotta discussed the ISO and VT 5.500 state interconnection processes. He commented that, when the rule was created, no one envisioned using the state rules to permit projects of the size currently proposed. Rule is antiquated given today's environment. The PSD is leading an effort to collaborate on revision of Rules 5.500 and 5.100. Ms. Frankel stated that a draft of the new 5.500 rule is expected to be released next week. She said that the PSD will include an approach to address the queue issue in the draft.
- Mr. Wright expressed concern that VEC is carrying the burden for addressing the issues related to the SHEI interface. He believes that this is a state issue and not just a VEC issue. VELCO acknowledged the issue and agreed to further consider how to be helpful address the issue within the constraints of its need to provide equal access.

#### **Power accounting update**

- Mr. Ettori presented the materials provided to the OC summarizing the great work that has occurred with the Power Accounting system. He mentioned that ARC is a great partner; they are exceeding the deadlines and cost estimates. At this point ARC is supporting the software and all ties with Bridge Energy group are severed.

### **Proposed agenda items for November**

- Proposal for new IT resources (Kerrick Johnson)
- Proposal for solar
- VTWAC next steps
- Fiber study
- VSPC future
- Data center opportunities with VELCO

### **Motion to adjourn**

- Mr. Wright moved and Mr. Couture seconded adjournment, which was agreed without objection at 2:00 p.m.