

**Final VELCO Operating Committee
MINUTES**

December 17, 2015, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Conference Call

Participating members: Frank Etori (VELCO), Ken Couture by phone (Green Mountain Power), Ken Mason by phone (Vermont Public Power Supply Authority), Ken Nolan by phone (Burlington Electric Department), Kevin Perry by phone (Vermont Electric Cooperative), Bill Powell by phone (Washington Electric Cooperative), Chris Root (VELCO), Kevin Weishaar by phone (Town of Stowe Electric Department), Jeff Wright by phone (Vermont Electric Cooperative).

Other participants: Thomas Dunn (VELCO), Deena Frankel (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Mike Loucy (VELCO), Kim Moulton (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO).

Next Meeting
January 21, 2016
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
GMP Montpelier:
1-866-720-4556
Code: 6027065

Opening

- Mr. Root called the Operating Committee (OC) meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Safety topic

- Mr. Root discussed that VELCO has recently conducted trailering awareness training and reminding the trainees of the importance to conduct trailer and towing vehicle inspections, safe towing practices, and driving precautions.

Minutes approval

- Mr. Powell moved, Mr. Wright seconded and the November minutes as posted were approved without objection.

Statewide Radio Project (SRP) update

- Mr. Nelson discussed that coverage was added from 11 new sites with one more in construction. The channel capacity has also been increased at 11 sites.
- Mr. Nelson mentioned that the interference challenge associated with the Middlebury site has been resolved.
- Mr. Nelson summarized that the SRP stress testing is complete and that the control consoles are adding a level of complexity but the team is working to better understand how the consoles interact with the network.
- He continued that VELCO is currently developing the project plan for 2016 and will include an analysis of potentially splitting sites to provide more specific locational coverage.

Power Accounting update

- Mr. Etori discussed a planned coordinated meeting with the Vermont distribution utilities (DU) to discuss reporting of behind the meter generation resources as part of

the Regional Network Service (RNS) tariff. The main agenda item will be what type of facilities are to be included in the load calculations.

- Mr. Etori summarized that VEC and Swanton station service adjustments have been completed and we are working with GMP to get their meters completed.
- Mr. Etori mentioned that VELCO is currently developing the 2016 work plan with ARC Solutions and the project is going smoothly.

ISO-New England update

- Mr. Etori summarized that ISO-NE continues to work through challenges associated with non-dispatchable generation. ISO intends to make changes to resource bidding requirements.
- Mr. Etori explained the proposal to change the non-price retirement to a price retirement methodology did not pass upon vote.

VELCO Board of Directors update

- Mr. Dunn summarized that the meeting contained multiple presentations as we come into the end of the year highlighting the new PowerPlan software accounting platform, Weather Analytics System progress, Board reaffirmed its support of the VSPC, EMS platform upgrade, and that the structure replacement program is continuing with approximately 300 structures planned for 2016.
- Mr. Wright asked if VELCO uses SADI to analyze its reliability. Mr. Root responded that yes, VELCO tracks SADI data to analyze its reliability.

Root Cause Investigation Inter-Control Center Communications Protocol (ICCP) Outage update

- Ms. Moulton presented the Root Cause Investigation (RCI) materials provided to the OC summarizing that the incident resulted from an externally facing firewall challenge. The event was reportable to NERC but was not a non-compliant event.
- Ms. Moulton discussed that VELCO continues to work with the vendor to identify why the product failed to keep the communications links operational as well as other process improvements to address the results of the RCI.

New England Transmission Owners (TO) Operating Executives overview

- Mr. Root discussed that he and Mr. Etori attended a recent meeting summarizing that New England has a best practice in Outage Scheduling with ISO-NE.
- Mr. Root summarized that ISO-NE has reviewed studies by each TO as part of NERC CIP 14 (on Physical Security). These studies are done with entire locational facilities out of service and are being used to identify “critical” facilities.
- Mr. Root summarized that as part of the winter outlook ISO-NE has secured the anticipated oil and LNG inventories along with several dual fuel units preparing to possibly run on oil.
- Mr. Etori discussed changes to the funding treatment for local projects that have PTF components. The direction appears to be moving towards locally funding projects if they don't provide a greater regional benefit.

Other business

- 2016 Calendar was agreed to by all.
- Mr. Johnson summarized a recent Weather Analytics strategy meeting that included DU members and the 2016 agenda is under development.

Proposed agenda items

- Safety and reliability KPI update and how VELCO compares regionally
- Storage analysis update
- Large renewables update
- Independent transmission update

Motion to adjourn

- Mr. Wright moved and Mr. Etori seconded adjournment, which was agreed without objection at 12:20 p.m.