

DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: May 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons, Munir Kasti
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):**
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Kris Smith
- **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

Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Tim Follensbee (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Jason Pew (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO),

OPENING REMARKS

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

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Root noted ticks are out in abundance right now. VELCO has been highlighting with employees the use of tick repellents and the need for tick checks.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from April 15, 2021 for approval.

Mr. Rossi moved for approval, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented without objection.

TELECOM SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Stamp indicated the subcommittee met last week. The group discussed the change from 72 count to 144 count fiber, along with allocation and requirements. The group is also still discussing how to attach to the DER sites. The first shipment of the 144 count fiber is expected next week. They are not seeing long lead times on the fiber at the moment. With respect to routing: 270 miles of fiber have been approved, will be moving into walk-downs, engineering, and then task construction.

ISO BEHIND THE METER UPDATE

Mr. Etori provided a review of the issue, indicating the Transmission Owners have worked together on the proposal and that, ultimately, they have presented at the various committees thirteen times. Recently, the Transmission Committee voted 88.9% in favor of the proposal and the Markets Committee voted 94.4% in favor. As noted last month, the Participating Transmission Owners Administrative Committee (PTOAC) previously voted 100% in favor. With these latest favorable votes, the proposal now has committee support. The Participants Committee vote is scheduled for next week. Due to the favorable votes from the other

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committees, the proposal should be on the consent agenda. Ultimately, the decision will be up to FERC to accept the proposal. Mr. Etori is optimistic the proposal will receive FERC approval due to the NEPOOL support. They expect to file at FERC after the Participants Committee vote, likely mid-June.

MOBILE STORAGE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Connaughton provided a brief update noting they have reviewed the preliminary analysis. The group is comparing two options: purchase vs 5-year lease. There are different risks and cost structures associated with each. The group is looking to do a more in-depth review of the lease option, including a quote on a 12-month lease. They are also reviewing the availability of a mobile docking station. This would provide for complete mobility. The next discussion is scheduled for June 1st, during which the group will look to revise the analysis to include lease quotes and design for docking station.

PST UPDATE

Mr. Root indicated the failed Sandbar PST has been taken apart, moved off the foundation, and will be shipped back to the Netherlands for repair. On Sunday, the Granite PST will be transported to Sandbar. This will be approximately a 12 or 13 hour trip. At this point, the Granite PST is still on schedule to be moved this Sunday. Once the PST arrives at Sandbar, it will be parked overnight and then the work to begin putting it in place will begin on Monday. Mr. Root also noted work at Sandbar is ongoing and the bypass has been installed.

PENTA UPDATE

Mr. Follensbee provided an update on the status of Penta production, along with an outline of the Penta phase out. The slides presented also included a review of alternative treatments to Penta and next steps. See presentation for details.

FERC ORDER 2222 UPDATE

Mr. Etori provided some slides summarizing FERC Order 2222. The summary included a review of size and locational requirements, day-ahead operational coordination, real-time operational coordination, and a high-level process schedule. See presentation for details.

RETURN TO OFFICE DISCUSSION

Mr. Root indicated VELCO is allowing additional employees back into the office beginning in June. The summer will be a transitional period with September as the target for the new norm. Unvaccinated employees are expected to wear masks in the office.

Mr. Burke indicated VOSHA/OSHA have not updated any rules since last April. OSHA is receiving political pressure to update their guidelines. Updates may be coming soon. GMP will be putting out guidance on getting employees back in the office. Some employees are already back.

Mr. Rossi noted VEC has a multiple-phased program that follows the State. VEC has stopped using the sign-in app. Employees are still wearing masks in the office even if vaccinated. Beginning July 4th, masks will be recommended but not required in the office. Mr. Rossi expects the new norm will be decided by Labor Day.

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Mr. Gibbons noted BED is in discussions right now concerning guidelines. BED may due an interim policy for the remaining portion of this year. They are currently drafting the return-to-office policy. Some flexibility will remain.

Mr. Powell indicated WEC's office will be opening on June 1st. All employees are expected back and there is no remote working policy. Additionally, masks are still required in trucks with two individuals.

Mr. Fitzhugh indicated VPPSA will have individuals in their office after July 4th. He also noted that some of their members have opened up their offices and some are still closed.

There was a discussion concerning the question of when the in-person OC meetings should resume. Mr. Root indicated September may be a good time-frame for these in-person meetings to resume. Mr. Smith asked if this meeting would be offered up in a hybrid form. Mr. Root noted this could be accomplished. The consensus of the group was to resume these in-person meetings beginning in September. Additionally, the thought is to possibly have every other meeting be an in-person meeting, with the other meetings remaining remote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- None

Next meeting

Date: June 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

Possible topics for discussion

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item
- ISO behind-the-meter update
- Storage Update – quarterly agenda item
- North Rutland SCAP Project
- FERC 2222 order – update in the Fall
- Make ready work with all the fiber projects around the state of the CUDs – Mr. Rossi

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn, Mr. Burke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens
VELCO OC Secretary