

DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: January 18, 2024, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke, Josh Castonguay
- **Hyde Park (HP):** Brian Evans-Mongeon
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):** Jackie Pratt
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Jason Pew, Tina Stevens, Jaime Smyrski
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh, Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Ken Couture (GMP), Frank Ettori (VELCO), Dan Kopin (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Pew verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Gibbons shared a story around the dangers of downed wires and vehicles.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Pew presented the meeting minutes from November 16, 2023 for approval.

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

OPERATING COMMITTEE WEBSITE PREVIEW

Ms. Louiselle shared an overview of the new Operating Committee website. This website will be going live on January 19th. Meeting materials dating back to 2017, along with all Final Minutes, have been migrated over to the new website. Any questions related to the new site may be directed to Ms. Louiselle or Ms. Smyrski.

VTAM VOTE

Prior to the meeting, participants were provided with a redline of the VTAM and the OpCom Bylaws (both of which have been posted to the OpCom website). There have been no additional comments submitted. The group decided to table voting on the revisions until the February meeting and were requested to provide Messrs. Pew and Sciarrotta with any comments or proposed edits prior to the February meeting.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ms. Stevens shared an update that covered staffing changes in Operations, along with a note that Cycle I training is expected to begin the end of January.

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2024 OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Mr. Pew shared an overview of the 2024 meeting dates.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & OPEN ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Mr. Pr sum  shared that ISO-NE published a draft report last month. Comments on this draft are to be received by January 25th. Mr. Pr sum  noted a couple of highlights from the report and indicated VELCO Planning is doing their own analysis as part of the 2024 Long Range Plan. Mr. Pr sum  indicated the 2024 Long Range Plan is expected to be reviewed at the next Vermont System Planning Committee meeting.

ISO UPDATE

Mr. Etori provided an update which included the following:

- Asset condition effort continues in New England. This is a regional wide effort. Two deliverables they are working on: 1) The creation of an asset database (PTF lines & transformer, age, % of them that are still original. 2) Guidance document.
- Planning Advisory Committee is working internally on the Sandbar Smart Valve project. Looking to get funding on remaining portion of the project.

PNNL PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Kopin indicated the PNNL team is currently working on reviewing load power factor (LPF) for an October timeframe related to the South Hero and South Alburg area and will be doing a sensitivity analysis. They expect to have results based on this analysis in the next few months. The goal is to highlight the benefit in terms of LPF and volt optimization versus the cost to implement.

VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE

Mr. Pew indicated they are making progress with Hydro Quebec on the Highgate Block Load and there is a meeting set up for next Monday to discuss the plan.

TELECOM WORKING GROUP

Mr. Stamp shared the following: the group has a meeting scheduled for early February; end equipment at all WEC stations is done and WEC is validating; testing in Middlebury area expected to begin in the Spring; construction management team is in place; 3.7 pole apps are complete in GMP, VEC, and WEC; will be moving on to VPPSA next and then will be reaching out to BED and Stowe.

Mr. Rossi asked if there was a plan or process for new generation coming online and being included within the Fiber Grid Reliability project. A discussion ensued and resulted in this topic being included within February's agenda.

NEW ENGLAND T&D TECHNICAL FORUM

No update.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

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- None

Next meeting

Date: February 15, 2024, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

Possible topics for discussion

- VTAM and Bylaw revision vote
- Fiber Grid Reliability discussion
- Newport T1 Transformer Replacement (Dan Poulin)
- Needs Assessment & Open Action Item review (by exception)
- ISO update (by exception)
- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness update (by exception)
- Telecom Working Group (by exception)
- New England T&D Technical Forum (by exception)
- VELCO Operations highlights (by exception)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Powell moved to adjourn, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens