



Geographic Targeting Subcommittee

June 21, 2024

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Participants: Kamran Hassan (GMP), JJ Vandette (WEC), Louis Porter (WEC), Bill Powell (WEC), Hantz Presume (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), TJ Poor (DPS), Lou Cecere (DPS), Philip Picotte (DPS), Jay Pilliod (VEIC), David Westman (VEIC), Bradley Williams (BED), James Gibbons (BED), John Dasaro (Enosburg), Tom Petraska (Ludlow), Michael Lazorchak (Stowe), Heather D'Arcy (VPPSA), Drew Clayson (VPPSA), Marc Allen (VELCO),

The Geographic Targeting Subcommittee met to perform the annual project review and discuss if any projects required further NTA analysis.

Green Mountain Power project screening

GMP does not have any projects driven by load growth and eligible for avoidance by NTAs; nor do they have new projects to introduce. Kamran Hassan provided updates on previously reviewed projects.

GMP's project screening list is available on the VSPC website at:

<https://www.vermontspc.com/sites/default/files/2024-06/GMP%20Geotargeting%20Areas%202024.xlsx>

- Taftsville to Windsor reconductoring project was completed in May 2024.
- Hydeville substation transformer energization was completed in May 2024.
- Richmond substation commissioning was completed in late 2023.
- Pleasant Street substation project was completed in 2024.
- Berlin 40 project started in fall 2023. This is a substation upgrade for asset maintenance. Permit provisions were provided for portable substation for emergency management
- Londonderry Project started spring 2024. This is a substation upgrade for asset maintenance. Permit provisions were provided for portable substations for emergency management.
- Bolton 41 substation project (asset management) below grade work will begin in June 2024. GMP is modifying transmission and reconfiguring the tap for greater during winter due to snow unloading.
- Richmond Substation Project is a full rebuild and addition of transmission breakers. The project is for reliability during sub transmission contingencies.

Washington Electric Cooperative

Louis Porter flagged two substation projects with plans to rebuild the wooden substation structures at Jackson Corner and Mount Knox, potentially including battery storage at Jackson Corner. The projects aim to address aging infrastructure and accommodate increased generation and load. Engineering work is ongoing, and WEC aims to apply for an RUS loan amendment in the fall to fund the projects. Federal

environmental review is required due to the use of RUS funding. Both projects will be ready for NTA screening in 2025.

Louis also flagged that WEC may need to perform retransforming in East Montpelier and Moretown. Both projects are still in analysis and not ready for review.

The group discussed the difference between load-growth and generation-constraint analysis. The topic was tabled for further discussion at a future GTS meeting.

Stowe Electric Department

Michael Lazorchak shared that Stowe filed a 248j to add a 100 MVA transformer to the current configuration at the Wilkins substation, and potentially adding an express circuit. Contingent upon receiving federal funding under a FEMA resilience grant in response to Winter Storm Elliot, Stowe might be upgrading the structure at the Lodge substation next year.

Vermont Electric Cooperative

Vermont Electric Cooperative reported that they have no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Burlington Electric Department

Burlington Electric Department reported that they have no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority reported that their members have no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Hyde Park Electric

Hyde Park Electric HPE reported that they have no projects that would trigger the NTA screen.

Vermont Electric Power Company

Hantz Pr sum  provided an overview of two VELCO projects that screened out of further NTA analysis.

Newport Substation Transformer Replacement Project: VELCO proposed to replace the aging 1958 transformer at the Newport substation with a 1971 spare 50 MVA transformer that is located at the Newport substation. The existing transformer has reached the end of its useful life and poses a risk of failure. The replacement aims to address these concerns. The project is estimated to cost \$383,000 and is considered a maintenance-related project, not suitable for Non-Transmission Alternatives (NTAs). The Newport Transformer Replacement project screening is available [here](#).

SmartValve Project: VELCO presented their Smart Valve project, which involves installing a power electronics device in series with the existing phase shifter at the Sandbar substation. This technology aims to reduce excessive tap changes on the phase shifter transformer, extending its lifespan and improving flow control precision on the PV20 line between Vermont and New York. The project is expected to be in service by 2026. The Smart Valve will work in tandem with the phase shifter to provide a wider range of flow control and redundancy. The SmartValve Project screening is available [here](#).

Because these are asset management driven projects, both the Newport Transformer Replacement and SmartValve projects screened out of consideration for NTA alternatives. There were no objections to these findings.

NTA Coordination

The Subcommittee discussed the 2024 geographic targeting process. GMP, as the lead utility, will coordinate the NTA study group and produce a project-specific action plan by Q1 of 2025.

Next meeting

The Geographic Targeting Subcommittee will need to create Geographic Targeting recommendations to send to the VSPC for approval at the October 2024 quarterly meeting. The Geographic Targeting Subcommittee will meet next in September 2024.