

**VELCO Operating Committee (OC)
FINAL MINUTES**

June 19, 2014, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Conference Call

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

Other participants: Nathan Boutwell (VELCO), Deena Frankel (VELCO), Mike Loucy (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Dan Poulin (VELCO)

Meeting opening

- Mr. Root opened the Operating Committee (OC) meeting at approximately 11:05 am.

Safety topic

- Mr. Root mentioned that tick season is present and VELCO has had two recent episodes. The biggest risk is Lyme disease and cases have been trending northward.
- Mr. Boutwell mentioned the field personnel should be wearing repellent and complete thorough checks at the end of the day. VELCO is also trying to collect the ticks and sending them out for analysis to capture lime disease
- Ms. Burt asked where the tick reports have been coming from. Mr. Boutwell responded that primarily in the southern areas of the state. Mr. Couture also responded that GMP is seeing tick reports from across the state but that the Southern Vermont they are more prevalent.

Next update

July 17, 2014
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

GMP Montpelier Office

Minutes approval

- Ms. Burt moved and Mr. Nolan seconded approval of the minutes of May 15, 2014, which were approved without dissent.

VELCO Gate Locks update

- Mr. Root presented the materials provided to the OC.

Arc Flash Fault Current Calculations update

Minimum Approach Distance

- Mr. Poulin presented the materials provided to the OC.
- Mr. Root discussed that different potentials can be present at substations with different voltages. He asked if VELCO is planning to extend training or other communication to DU switchmen that require access and it may be a good practice to post the minimum approach distances at each substation. Mr. Poulin responded that VELCO is preparing to assist any DU with access to these facilities with knowledge transfer and agreed that posting the minimum approach distances at each substation as well as incorporating this information into the switching and tagging policies are good practices.
- Mr. Mason asked if VELCO is going to provide the DU's with the clothing calorie rating requirements. Mr. Poulin responded that yes VELCO will generate this information on a substation specific basis and the

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calculations are anticipated to be completed by the end of the summer. He continued that once completed VELCO will develop a communications plan for each impacted DU.

- Mr. Root discussed that VELCO is prepared to offer guidance to any DU on how to comply with the regulations. He stated this will include how VELCO plans to be protective of its workers.

Clearing Time Discussion

- Mr. Poulin presented the materials provided to the OC.
- Mr. Root asked if VELCO is required to complete any calculations at subtransmission substations. Mr. Poulin responded that VELCO is reaching out to each DU to communicate the process and offer assistance in coordinating calculations. **VELCO is planning to give subtransmission bus available fault current and transmission clearing times.**

Telecommunications

Fiber Update

- Mr. Nelson presented the materials provided to the OC.

Statewide Radio Project (SRP) Update

- Mr. Nelson presented the SRP materials provided to the OC.
- Mr. Wright asked if the pilot SRP site is a repeater system. Mr. Nelson responded that the pilot site is to test a microcell which is different than a repeater. The microcell provides coverage to a localized area vs using signal from an adjacent cell. He continued that the main advantages of a microcell are that they are vastly more economical to deploy, use existing utility poles which often have VELCO fiber present for backhaul and fall under an expedited permit review process by the State of Vermont.

Power Accounting update

- Mr. Etori presented the materials provided to the OC.
- Mr. Etori discussed the ISO-NE 5 minute settlement proposal and the approximate \$4M cost to Vermont for this effort.
- Mr. Root summarized his understanding of Mr. Etori's presentation of the metering options: option 1 being the polling of data on a 5 minute basis from every substation and option 2 being to average the hourly data currently being collected and asked what the biggest challenges are for the two options. and summarized Mr. Etori responded that using instantaneous telemetry and then adjusting the profile to the hourly revenue quality meters will be significantly less costly than adjusting the generators, tie lines, and power accounting software changes to implement the current ISO proposal.
- Mr. Root asked what position have utilities outside of Vermont taken regarding the metering options. Mr. Etori responded that many of the New England utilities have expressed the same concerns as VELCO and have also expressed their support for the less costly option since the New England estimate is over \$20M to complete the ISO-NE 5 minute revenue quality meter proposal.
- Mr. Root asked if ISO-NE has set a timeframe to decide on the settlement options. Mr. Etori responded that the Markets Committee will be meeting in July and a presentation is planned which will highlight the

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cost and risks/benefits of the options. He continued that since the investment costs would likely be treated as a localized cost, ISO-NE will need to take this data point into consideration.

ISO-NE update

Capacity Outlook for Summer and Winter

- Mr. Etori presented the ISO-NE materials presented to the OC.

Other business

- The OC members discussed and agreed that the July meeting will be in person at GMP Montpelier Office.

Proposed agenda topics

- Arc Flash updates for the next few meetings
- VELCO substation security change rollout progress
- Scrap metal legislation – risks - benefits
- Update on VELCO BOD review of proposed independent transmission/gas pipeline projects [CHRIS???
- Discussion around meeting format - in person or mixing in conference calls.

Adjournment

- Ms. Burt moved and Mr. Couture seconded adjournment, which was agreed to without objection at approximately 12:55 pm.