AD HOC COMMITTEE PROPOSED DRAFT
Vermont System Planning Committee
Charter

Purpose

The **Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC)** is a collaborative body comprised of representatives of stakeholder groups with an interest in electric system reliability. Its purpose is to ensure full, fair, and timely consideration of all societally cost-effective solutions to resolve electric grid reliability issues.

In fulfilling its purpose, the VSPC shall undertake the following objectives:

1. Collaborate with and provide formal input to VELCO in the development and review of the **Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan (LRTP)** as established in the **Docket 7081 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** and such other processes as may be adopted.
2. Jointly review known reliability issues (**transmission**, **subtransmission** and **distribution**) at least once annually to encourage shared insight and facilitate collaboration among electric grid stakeholders.
3. Carry out the functions assigned to the VSPC for screening and analysis of **Non-Wires Alternative** potential as established in the MOU and the **Docket 7874 Screening Framework**.
4. Enhance transparency and public engagement in electric system planning.
5. Provide a forum for the discussion and analysis of the impacts of emerging trends on the behavior of Vermont's electric energy load, including electrification of different end-uses, the installation of storage capacity, demand response measures, distributed generators and others.
6. Seek consensus on the Vermont load forecast to support LRTP development.
7. Monitor the installation and impacts of **Distributed Energy Resources (DER)** to provide broadly shared insight about DER integration and support the development of tools and processes needed to plan for and maintain reliability in an increasingly modernized and intelligent electric grid.
8. Provide a forum for utilities and partners to share plans for managing load and infrastructure, and allow for peer-to-peer learning through discussion of shared experiences.
9. Maintain regular communication with **ISO New England** to increase Vermont stakeholder and ISO New England understanding of mutually relevant issues, such as forecasting and grid management.

In carrying out this charter, the VSPC will recognize the utility-specific obligations in individual utility **Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs)** and statewide energy policy.

Deliverables

#	Related purpose	Current task?	Tasks/deliverables (current and potential)
1	1, 4, 6	Yes	Provide formal input to the LRTP as required by the MOU.
2	1 , 4, 6	Yes	Provide input to the Vermont load forecast.
3	2, 3, 4, 7	Yes	Annually review utility NWA screenings and make geographic targeting recommendations for energy efficiency and standard offer above the cap to the Public Service Board.
4	4	Yes	Recommend candidates for PSB appointments to public seats.
5	4	No	Identify and address gaps (if any) in current membership structure and stakeholder representation
6	4	Yes	Maintain transparency of the VSPC through a VSPC website and adherence to VSPC procedures for meeting notice and open meetings.
7	3, 4, 7	Partial	Maintain a regularly updated, easily understood, publicly available tracking tool for the status of all screened reliability issues.
8	4, 5, 8	Yes	Provide information about policy, programmatic and technological developments, such as FERC Orders, Vermont rule and legislative changes, and research projects.
9	4, 5, 7	Yes	Provide a forum for sharing of utility IRPs.
10	4, 5, 7	No	Monitor emerging grid transformations and consider whether the VSPC has a value-added role to play in evaluating impacts and/or adapting to specific changes as they emerge.
11	3?, 4, 5, 7	Partial	Modify project screening tools as needed/when necessary to ensure continued consistency with purpose and objectives.

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

DER — Distributed Energy Resources: Distributed energy resources (DER) are smaller power sources and demand control systems that can be aggregated and coordinated to provide power necessary to meet regular demand. (Source: EPRI.)

Distribution: The final stage in the delivery of electric power, distribution carries electricity from the transmission system to individual consumers.

Docket 7874 Screening Framework: An attachment to the PSB Order in Docket 7874 that establishes the procedure for implementation of 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(d)(2), the procedure for the PSB to approve standard offer generation that provides "sufficient benefit" to the grid to warrant permitting outside the program's annual cap.

FERC — Federal Energy Regulatory Commission: An independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity, as well as natural gas and hydropower projects. (Source: FERC.gov.)

FERC Order 1000: A FERC order that reforms planning, cost allocation and interregional planning of transmission facilities, and requires competitive bidding for the construction of new transmission infrastructure. For more information: http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/trans-plan.asp

Grid transformation: Adaptation of the electric power grid to increasing integration of DER and renewable energy.

ISO-NE — ISO New England: The independent, not-for-profit company authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to serve as the Regional Transmission Organization for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and most of Maine. Its responsibilities include operating the power system, administering the electric power markets, and conducting power system planning for the region.

IRP — Integrated Resource Plan: A utility plan for meeting forecasted annual peak and energy demand, plus some established reserve margin, through a combination of supply-side and demand-side resources over a specified future period. Vermont utilities are required to submit an IRP to the PSB and PSD at least once every three years looking out over a 20-year horizon. (See Vermont Statutes Title 30 Section 218c.)

LRTP — Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan: The least cost integrated plan for the electric transmission system required to be filed by VELCO once every three years. (See Vermont Statutes Title 30 Section 218c.)

MOU — Docket 7081 Memorandum of Understanding: The settlement in PSB Docket 7081, *Investigation into Least-Cost Integrated Resource Planning for Vermont Electric Power Company*. The settlement establishes the VSPC, procedures related to screening of transmission and subtransmission issues for the potential to be resolved with NWAs and other collaborative planning processes.

NWA — Non-Wires Alternatives: Targeting the use of energy efficiency, and energy resources including distributed energy resources (DERs) in a specific location or geographic boundary to defer or avoid building new transmission or distribution infrastructure to resolve a reliability issue. NWAs may also

include hybrid solutions that may combine some traditional capital investment and some DER components.

NWA screening: Preliminary review of an identified reliability issue to determine, at a high level, its potential to be resolved with an NWA.

NWA screening tools: A formally adopted form used to perform NWA screening. The following two screening tools have been approved for use in Vermont.

> Docket 7081/VSPC Non-Transmission Alternatives screening tool required for all transmission issues and may be used for sub-transmission issues.
>
> Docket 6290 screening tool required for all distribution issues and may be used for sub-transmission issues.

PSB —Public Service Board: A quasi-judicial board that supervises the rates, quality of service, and overall financial management of Vermont's public utilities: cable television, electric, gas, telecommunications, water and large wastewater companies.

PSD — Public Service Department: An agency within the executive branch of Vermont state government charged with representing the public interest in energy, telecommunications, water and wastewater utility matters.

Reliability: The ability to meet the electricity needs of end-use customers, even when unexpected equipment failures or other conditions reduce the amount of available power supply; the capability of electricity networks to withstand sudden disturbances or unanticipated losses in system components, whether caused by natural or man-made events; maintaining sufficient resources to provide end-use customers with round-the-clock delivery of electricity at the proper voltage and frequency. (Source: North American Electric Reliability Corporation.)

Reliability deficiency: an existing or forecasted violation, pre- or post-contingency, of applicable Bulk Transmission System or Subsystem design or operating criteria, with consideration given to the reliability and availability of individual system elements. (As defined in Docket 7081 MOU.)

Subtransmission: Electric system delivery components that are classified neither as transmission nor distribution.

Transmission: The bulk movement of electrical energy from a generating site, such as a power plant, to an electrical substation. In Docket 7081, bulk transmission is defined as facilities that are 115 kV and higher, and those that are classified as “pool transmission facilities,” by ISO New England, i.e., they benefit the regional grid and therefore their costs are socialized across the region.

VELCO — Vermont Electric Power Company: The owner/operator of Vermont’s electric transmission system.

VSPC — Vermont System Planning Committee: The stakeholder committee established in Docket 7081 for collaborative transmission planning, public engagement and transparency of the planning process.