

## **DRAFT Operating Committee MINUTES**

**Date:** December 20, 2018, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Green Mountain Power Montpelier, VT

**Call-in:** 1-866-720-4556, Code: 6027065

### **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Ken Couture
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):** David Kresock
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Ken Tripp
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Chris Root, Frank Etori
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Craig Myotte
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

### **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

John Flynn (VELCO), Allen Stamp (PWC), Dave Haas (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Mary Coombs (VELCO), Colin Owyang (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Scott Capps (ADS), and Mike Fiske (VELCO).

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Root verified we have a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

### **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Root discussed concussions and the importance of getting medical help and understanding the signs of concussions.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from November 15, 2018.

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

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Mr. Dunn reviewed the recent Board of Directors meeting. He mentioned the 2018 operational highlights, the Energy fuel security presented by Mark Montalvo, the sale of the Highgate Converter and making a loan to Stowe Electric. The Converter purchase was approved by FERC the week after the board meeting. Bambi Rivera and Kris Lewia gave a cyber-security presentation. He reviewed the Utopus conversation with Chandu Viswesawariah. UI has evolved and have learned that providing software is a challenging proposition and they are going to focus on wind. The result is the VELCO strategic partnership will be delayed another year. He expressed disappointment in this notice and disappointments to the JDA work we have been working on. We have received a large check from UI for our ownership sale. VELCO will be talking to all the DUs about the PLM effort and moving forward. We need to determine our next steps but we have a few million dollars available from the partnership agreement, but even if we do not pursue the partnership, we will financially we will be made hole for the work so far.

Mr. Rossi asked what the plan is after Roger Hill retires. Mr. Haas suggested that Jay Shafer may be interested but Roger's contract ends in July of 2020. **WEATHER DATA VERIFICATION**

Mr. Stamp provided a presentation on the weather verification. He introduced Scott Capps on the phone. Mary gave a high-level overview of the weather agenda for their presentation divided between Allen, Scott, and Mary. The JDA products are owned by VELCO, the commercial products are items we will receive free upgrades, and the SPA effort is what we need to figure out. Scott talked about the HPCC. It has 32 compute nodes and 896 cores. Mr. Capps said torque scheduler is working well with the exception of the UI Nostradamus weather model. Allen discussed the evolution of the VELCO WRF model while UI was moving their HPCC from IBM to UI. Ms. Coombs reviewed the Nostradamus 10 day weather forecast. Allen discussed the strategy for Vermont weather storm response. Mr. Couture said the now casting has benefit and they do not want it to go away. Mr. Capps suggested adding a feature that would allow a user to select a VELCO now-cast and provide subsequent weather models every hour. Mr. Rossi asked for a copy of the now-cast URL. Ms. Coombs then covered the mine weather verification. She mentioned the two weather models not being updated, Nostradamus and VELCO now-cast. Nostradamus is not updated because of changes UI made to the 10 day forecast and now-cast is not updated because that is only updated when a now-cast is manually triggered.

### **2018 VELCO HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Fiske provided an overview of the 2018 VELCO highlights. This was the same presentation given at the December board of directors meeting. He discussed VELCO's safety record and not having a lost time incident in the last 4 years. The system performance has changed from the board meeting with the addition of the St Johnsbury incident. NERC compliance audit and our security programs resulted in 6 positive observations and not recommendations or areas of non-compliance. All high priority maintenance completed, installed four dissolved gas monitors, repaired a leak in the Sand Bar PST, and inspecting and adjusting 14 ABB vacuum breaker issues.

### **ASCUTNEY SVC OVERVIEW**

Mr. Poulin discussed the Ascutney SVE project. He discussed the need for the project was based on loss of K50 and K31 lines would result in a voltage collapse scenario. General Electric was awarded the EPC contract with milestone payments. A new 115kV bay was added to accept the underground SVC interconnection. This was the first time VELCO has accepted the GE Prolec transformer design. VELCO is still holding 20% of the contract price until they meet operational run time which will be tomorrow unless they trip off line.

### **ST. JOHNSBURY INCIDENT**

Mr. Haas gave an update on the St. Johnsbury incident that occurred on 12/15/18. A line VT failed on the X15 breaker. The 34.5 kV low side breakers did not trip, a transformer differential occurred due to an Electros witch lockout DC ground issue, the SCADA RTU failed during the incident, and other equipment in the building was damaged. The radio network was affected with five radio towers that went down due to the communications interruption at St. Johnsbury. Response time from GMP was very good and minimized the duration of the customer outages. The goal is to get the transformer and bus in-service by the end of the week

repaired and getting the X15 breaker and VT done next week.

## **ENERGY SECURITY IN NEW ENGLAND**

Mr. Etori provided an overview of the Daymark presentation that was given at the December board of directors meeting. The presentation concludes that ISO has an issue in the future given a cold snap and potential shortages on the natural gas pipeline with increased LDC gas demand. The 83C and 83D Massachusetts law will help alleviate some of the issue when those projects are delivered.

## **2019 CALENDAR**

Mr. Root discussed the proposed dates for the 2019 operating committee meetings. Mr. Couture commented on the Montpelier office is reserved for the 2019 schedule. The room may not be open until 10:00 but he has it reserved starting at 11.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Open discussion**

### **Next meeting**

**Date:** January 17, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Green Mountain Power Montpelier, VT

### **Possible topics for discussion**

- Legislative issues (John Flynn)
- Strategy with UI going forward

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Couture moved to adjourn, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 02:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Etori  
VELCO Vice-Chair