

## **DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**Date:** April 18, 2019, 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):** Mike Burke, 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):** Stephen Fitzhugh
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

### **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

John Flynn (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO) Partially by phone, Colin Owyang (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Mike Fiske (VELCO), Bill Jordan (DPS) (partial), and Ed McGann

### **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Etori provided a safety topic of ladder safety and the importance of ensuring Ladders are properly secured. He also mentioned the importance of resolving a safety hazard when you first recognize it.

### **CYBER SECURITY DISCUSSION**

Mr. Root discussed an article in the Wall St Journal about Duke receiving a \$10M fine which he had heard had originally started at \$250M. Group discussed the cyber threat with solar inverters, as well as the likelihood that distribution utilities will see an increase in cyber regulations/requirements in the near term. Bill Jordan of the VT DPS attended this session of the OC.

Mr. Rossi commented on a camera they installed that, once activated, provided a copy of the feed to its country of origin (China).

Bill Jordan from the DPS discussed the desire from a meeting that occurred among DPS, PUC, and utility CEO's to develop a cyber-security team reporting to the Operating Committee. They agreed that Mr. Jordan would attend every other OC to inform the broader group of issues and progress. After Mr. Jordan departed, the OC discussed whether to create a working group of VT utility cyber security experts to share information and best practices. VELCO will send out an email to query the group to get a list of personnel from each interested OC member to participate on that working group.

The group discussed a variety of other cyber incidents and the rise in attempted ingress by ill-intended parties. Mr. Fitzhugh suggested that Norwich University had facilities and expertise to help with the inverter concerns and offered the use of their resources. The group is considering holding a later OC at Norwich.

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## **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from March 21, 2019 for approval.

Mr. Fitzhugh moved for approval, Mr. Rossi seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **ST. JOHNSBURY RCA**

Mr. McGann reviewed the presentation materials provided, including an overview of the event and the root cause investigation which concluded that an insufficient ground grid connection had caused the event. The group discussed the importance of ongoing ground grid inspection and maintenance to ensure that connectivity is maintained over the life of assets.

## **NERC COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS**

Kim Moulton (VELCO) joined via phone to assist and address any questions.

Mr. Root discussed the material provided. He discussed the phishing exercise VELCO conducted, the phishing button on our email, and the outside email alert on all external VELCO emails.

The group again discussed issues with inverters and requested that VELCO share any information regarding the compliance (to NERC requirements) by vendors.

## **VELCO DATA CENTER**

Mr. Fiske reviewed the materials provided. The group discussed the emerging requirements for distribution utilities and the potential for the VELCO data center to be a resource.

## **VELCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Mr. Flynn discussed the strategic and scenario planning effort at VELCO and the April 4<sup>th</sup> VELCO Board of directors strategic planning discussion. The Board was very engaged in the strategic planning discussion and interested in the role we play in climate change.

## **NORTHVIEW WEATHER**

Mr. Owyang discussed the term sheet he sent out to the group. He was looking for feedback on what the group would like to do next. The group discussed the cost allocation arrangement based on participating DUs. GMP, Northfield, and VEC are interested in participating. BED, WEC, Stowe and other VPPSA members are still considering it. Mr.

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Owyang agreed to mark up the agreement and bring back to the group for the short term contract. Each DU will provide its system line miles as the proposed basis for cost allocation under the agreement. The group agreed to vote at the next OC on participation and cost allocation for both the short- and long-term product agreements with Northview.

### **EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) PLANNED SCHEDULE**

Mr. Root discussed the attendees on the emerald ash borer (EAB) team. The team had some changes to the roster. He also presented the schedule for meetings.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Open discussion**

- Mr. Root mentioned the request from HQ to uprate the Highgate Converter, that discussions were ongoing and an update would be provided at a future OC.

#### **Next meeting**

**Date:** May 16, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

#### **Possible topics for discussion**

- North View long term discussion
- SHEI update
- 2019 Spring Duck Curve
- 120-NE Update

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn, Mr. Burke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 03:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Flynn