

# **DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**DATE:** November 18, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons, Munir Kasti
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):**
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Chris Root, Frank Etori, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):**
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Jason Pew (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Root verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Root shared a story about an incident that occurred recently. An employee was driving on a public dirt road headed to a radio site in the southern part of the state on a windy day. A large treetop broke off suddenly and hit the SUV the employee was driving. A branch from the treetop penetrated the windshield of the vehicle. Fortunately, the employee was not injured. Mr. Root noted the need for awareness of surroundings, to include an awareness of the current weather conditions and potential for safety concerns.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from October 21, 2021 for approval.

Mr. Rossi moved for approval, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented without objection.

## **FERC ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (ANOPR) UPDATE**

Ms. Stamy provided some slides outlining FERC's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. There are three main areas: regional transmission planning, cost allocation & benefits identification, and generator interconnection. This is the first major FERC action on transmission since 2011. Ms. Stamy noted they concluded early on VELCO needed to add its voice to the ANOPR discussions. VELCO provided comments on items such as the Vermont planning process, cost allocation, cost containment, and non-transmission alternatives to name a few. The next step in the ANOPR is proposed rulemaking. They will likely begin with planning process since that is the easiest to tackle. The Final Rule is expected late 2022.

See presentation for details.

## **TELECOM WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Mr. Stamp provided an update: construction activities continue in WEC service territory; appear

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to be on target for 40 miles of fiber in the air by end of year; coordinating next year's work plan. At the next meeting, the group expects to review the overall schedule, firm up costs, and provide an update on interactions with CUDs. Lastly, Mr. Stamp noted they have experienced minimal supply chain issues since they reserved manufacturing space ahead of time, but they are seeing longer lead times.

### **SUPPLY CHAIN**

Mr. Sciarrotta provided an overview of current supply chain issues experienced by VELCO, including higher prices and longer lead times which may impact project costs and schedules. The supply chain issues are a result of inflation, the pandemic, and climate change. Steps being taken to offset the supply chain issues include quicker turn around on purchase orders, strategically building up inventory, being flexible on governance, and working more closely with suppliers. Some commodities on VELCO's watch-list include: steel, lumber, copper, aluminum, gasoline, diesel, propane, heating oil #2, and natural gas. Fleet vehicle purchase has also been impacted.

See presentation for details.

### **FERC 2222 ORDER UPDATE**

Mr. Etori indicated the proposal by ISO is expected to be filed in February of 2022. Amendments have been proposed to the ISO proposal. Some of the proposed amendments include: providing assurance to distribution utilities that they have the final say, including a provision for cost recovery, and establishing telemetry requirements. There is nothing in these proposals that wouldn't be supported by VELCO. Another proposed amendment includes the distributed generator providing meter reads to ISO. VELCO does not support this proposal. ISO will be voting on all of these items and filing in February 2022.

### **GRIDEX REPORT OUT**

Mr. Pew noted VELCO, along with ISO and all of the New England LCCs, participated in the GridEx VI exercise earlier this week. GridEx is a North American wide exercise that is designed to provide an opportunity to exercise emergency response and recovery plans in response to simulated cyber and physical security attacks and other contingencies that could impact the electricity system. The scenario included a nor'easter with an extended cold weather event, fuel supply issues, multiple line outages, cyber security issues causing generation loss, and an extended load shedding event throughout New England.

### **LOAD SHEDDING**

Mr. Pew provided some slides from ISO-NE's TO Fuel Risk Presentation which highlight New England fuel risks and actions for winter 2021/2022. The slides include an analysis based on current fuel reserves and a comparison to past winters:

- If the 2021/22 winter profile is similar to that of winter 2020/21, ISO anticipates the system can be operated reliably without the need for emergency procedures.
- If the 2021/22 winter profile is similar to that of winter 2017/18, ISO anticipates the system can be operated reliably, but may require implementation of capacity deficiency procedures.
- If the 2021/22 winter profile is similar to that of winter 2013/14 with persistent below

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normal temperatures and several cold stretches, the ISO anticipates that it may require the implementation of all available emergency procedures.

Mr. Pew noted VELCO is currently working with the 24/7 VT Distribution Utility control rooms for load shed rotation plans. The next step is to work with the VT Distribution Utilities that do not have 24/7 control rooms in order to plan for an extended outage. As noted last month, Peter Brandien with ISO has organized a group consisting of LCC Operations and Communications individuals to ensure there is a working plan that can be implemented and concise messaging to go along with it.

### **VACCINE MANDATE**

Mr. Root noted VELCO is currently targeting January 24<sup>th</sup> as the timeframe to have more employees come into the office. The expectation will be for employees to be in the office at least two days. To date, there has been no evidence of work related transmission of the virus.

Mr. Burke noted GMP has mostly returned to the office, with approximately 60-75% back. There is no formal date at this time for a full return. GMP has made modifications to the workspace to allow employees to spread out and maintain social distancing.

Mr. Kasti noted BED is still under a pilot project that will be expiring in January. The City policy has approximately 20% working in the office. The City is expected to go over each job description to determine what percentage can work from home.

Mr. Powell noted WEC has been back in the office for some time now, but it is an option for non-field employees.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Open discussion**

- None

#### **Next meeting**

**Date:** December 16, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

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

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item
- ISO behind-the-meter update
- Load shed progress – standing agenda item for next few months
- Jay Shafer presentation
- K42 update
- ISO/VELCO Leadership update

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Powell moved to adjourn, Mr. Burke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens

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VELCO OC Secretary