

# **DRAFT VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

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

**LOCATION:** Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

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

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Kevin Cronin (Northview Weather), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Mark Ehler (Northview Weather), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Jason Pew (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Jay Shafer (Northview Weather), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Root verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Mr. Root noted that Ms. Smith typically sends out meeting invites and materials for the Operating Committee. Ms. Smith is retiring at the end of this month. In the interim, Ms. Stevens will be responsible for sending out the Operating Committee materials following Ms. Smith’s retirement.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Burke shared that GMP is refreshing their employees on the fact that bucket trucks have wind ratings. GMP crews are regularly making decisions based on this information.

Mr. Root shared that the Emerald Ash Borer has become more prevalent. He indicated it is important to make sure workers are aware of the dangers associated with Ash trees.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Root presented the meeting minutes from November 18, 2021 for approval.

Mr. Rossi moved for approval and Mr. Fitzhugh seconded.

Mr. Kasti, having joined just after the approval of the minutes, requested one minor change under the Vaccine Mandate section changing “The City” to “BED”. No objections were noted and the minutes were approved as amended.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**

Mr. Shafer provided a presentation on Climate Change and its Impacts on the Vermont Electric Grid. The presentation included several topics including a review of global surface temperature projection scenarios, Vermont temperature trend and climate projections, Vermont heat and cold wave trends, Vermont climate projections, and a 30-year forecast.

See presentation for details.

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## **TELECOM WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Mr. Stamp provided an update, which included: currently working construction in the WEC territory; have placed approximately 25 miles of fiber; currently 3 crews in place. Mr. Stamp noted they have submitted some of the 3.7 applications for next year, which include 42 miles in GMP Colchester district and 36 miles in the VEC territory. Looking ahead to the first quarter of next year, expect to add another contractor and focus on coordination with VT Distribution Utility partners. Finally, Mr. Stamp noted that they have begun to see some delays with respect to materials, but nothing appreciable. This will just need to be managed going forward.

## **LOAD SHED PROGRESS**

Mr. Pew indicated VELCO had met with Commissioner Tierney this past Monday. The request that came out of this meeting was the development of a group consisting of representatives from the VT Distribution Utilities and VELCO that would meet periodically to review ISO-NE's 21-Day Energy Assessment Forecast and Report in order to be prepared for any potential energy emergency. Mr. Pew is developing a framework for the group and asks each utility to send him the name of their representative to be included.

## **K42 UPDATE**

Mr. Root noted Mr. Presume has submitted the economic analysis for the bundle-conductor to ISO-NE. ISO-NE is currently reviewing the analysis. Mr. Presume is hoping to hear back from ISO-NE before January since he would like to present the project at the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) in January. The presentation to the Reliability Committee would follow the presentation to the PAC.

## **ISO LEADERSHIP UPDATE**

Mr. Johnson shared that the VELCO Leadership Team periodically meets with the ISO-NE Leadership Team. This latest meeting was a two-hour conversation which included 5 topics: Winter Reliability, GridEx VI, K42 status, FERC Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR), and New England grid transformation and offshore wind. The first hour was taken up with primarily the topic of Winter Reliability and included discussions from an operational standpoint and a communications standpoint.

## **VELCO NOVEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Mr. Johnson indicated the board meeting included a review of current KPI indicators and budget, a presentation from the new head of VELCO Compliance, a VSPC update, and a review of operational challenges and winter reliability by Mr. Etori.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Open discussion**

- None

### **Next meeting**

**Date:** January 20, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

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### **Possible topics for discussion**

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item
- ISO behind-the-meter update
- Load Shed Progress – standing agenda item (until March)
- Emerald Ash Borer update - Jeff Disorda
- VELCO KPI review – Abe Fitch
- K42 update

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Powell moved to adjourn, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens  
VELCO OC Secretary