

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: May 19, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Green Mountain Power Montpelier, VT

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons (partial)
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Josh Castonguay
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):**
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Colin Owyang, Frank Etori, Tina Stevens
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Stephen Fitzhugh
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Jeff Disorda (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Scott Mallory (VELCO), Ed McGann (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Dan Poulin (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Owyang shared that it is Motorcycle Safety Month.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from March 17, 2022 for approval.

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

CHECK-IN WITH OWNERS ON GOVERNANCE

Mr. Owyang shared that Mr. Etori has been reaching out to members and will continue to reach out. No changes are expected at this time.

FERC ORDER 881 UPDATE

Mr. McGann provided a review of how VELCO currently rates their transmission lines, along with an overview of the requirements and applicability of FERC Order 881. FERC Order 881 was issued on December 16, 2021, compliance filings are due July 12, 2022, and implementation is required by July 12, 2025. Next steps include firming up the scope, schedule and design.

See presentation for details.

FERC NOPR ON TRANSMISSION UPDATE

Ms. Stamy noted VELCO is reviewing the lengthy NOPR, which covers substantial ground in terms of long term planning, cost allocation, and other important topics. An update will be provided at future OC meetings as VELCO continues to study the NOPR and its impact on VELCO and Vermont. The NOPR is the first in a series of rulemakings that is expected from the ANOPR that FERC issued last year.

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Mr. Dunn noted the significance of this rule making, with it opening the door for states to have more involvement in planning and cost allocation.

VTAM AND OC BY-LAW REVISION PROCESS

Ms. Stamy indicated the draft of the VTAM is almost ready to be sent out for comments. Changes include separating the bylaws into a stand-alone document and turning the VTAM into a cost allocation agreement. The bylaws are not changing, only receiving some modernization edits. Expect the draft VTAM in about a week or so.

NEW HAVEN OPERATIONS CENTER UPDATE

Mr. Poulin provided an update on VELCO's New Haven Operating Facility Project. This building will serve as a backup control center, operator training facility, data center, incident command center, secondary office building, and an office location for utility related meetings. Some of the benefits of the New Haven site include that it meets NERC's required distance from the Main Control Center, is located on property already owned by VELCO, and is located near reliable utility infrastructure. The project includes 32 kW of rooftop solar, geothermal cooling/heating, redundant station service and backup generator supplies, and separate air handling for the backup control center and EMS/IT/Telecom areas. The Certificate of Occupancy is expected to be received in June 2022. The backup control room is expected to be operational in October 2023. The project estimate included in the CPG filing was \$50.7M and the project forecast is \$50.4M, which includes adding the laydown yard move and recent data center design changes.

STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT – WEIGHTED AVERAGE

Mr. Poulin provided a slide which showed the age of VELCO structures as of fall 2021. Mr. Poulin noted the average age of the structure in fall of 2021 was 26 years old compared to 29 years old in 2019. This average age includes all structures, wood and steel.

See slide for details.

SCAP UPDATE – HIGHGATE AND MIDDLEBURY SUBSTATIONS

Mr. Poulin provided an overview of both the Highgate and Middlebury SCAP projects.

Highgate project schedule:

- Seek Board of Director approval in June 2022 to file a 248 CPG application.
- File 248 CPG application in July 2022
- Anticipate receiving CPG in March 2023
- Begin construction in April 2023
- Commission substation in March 2024

Mr. Rossi asked if the design considerations at Highgate included the potential need for splitting the bus during system restoration. Mr. Poulin indicated both VELCO Operations and Planning, among others, have previously provided input on the design scope of work but he would circle back to both parties.

Middlebury project schedule:

- Seek Board of Director approval in June 2022 to file a 248 CPG application.
- File 248 CPG application in August 2022

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- Perform PCB contamination remediation in March 2023
- Anticipate receiving CPG in April 2023
- Begin construction in April 2023
- Commission substation in March 2024

See presentation for details.

Mr. Rossi asked if a review of VELCO's schedule of substations could be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Poulin indicated he could provide this at the next meeting.

2021 VELCO ROW ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Disorda provided an overview of the 2021 ROW Management Annual Report. Some of the highlights included were vegetation management for Cycle 4, an overview of the 2021 planned vs actual work, a breakdown of the budget spend, an overview of the planned vs actual Emerald Ash Borer Ash trees cut, herbicide usage by line, an overview of tech upgrades, an overview of Products and Services, and a slide on Opportunities and Risks.

See presentation for details.

K42_FRANKLIN COUNTY LINE UPGRADE

Mr. Mallory provided a high level overview of the K42 line upgrade, now renamed to the Franklin County Line upgrade. The presentation included an overview of the K42 Line, identified K42 deficiencies, challenges associated with taking the K42 line out of service, proposed solution, line rebuild options, project value/cost summary, recommendation, and project milestones. Mr. Mallory noted the draft line design is expected by July 2022.

See presentation for details.

TELECOM WORKING GROUP

No update provided.

PNNL PROJECT UPDATE

No update provided.

ISO UPDATE

No update provided.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- None

Next meeting

Date: June 16, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Green Mountain Power Montpelier, VT

Possible topics for discussion

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item
- ISO behind-the-meter update

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- PNNL Project update
- GEPAC Report – Mike Burke
- High level schedule of VELCO’s substations – Dan Poulin

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Powell moved to adjourn, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens
VELCO OC Secretary