

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

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

LOCATION: Green Mountain Power Montpelier, VT

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):** Mike Burke
- **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, Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Mr. Owyang shared kids are out of school now and drivers need to be aware. There was also a discussion on the abundance of ticks and the need to check for ticks even when just outside in your back yard.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from May 19, 2022 for approval.

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

GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (GEPAC) REPORT

Mr. Burke shared an overview of the Governor’s Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (GEPAC). This council was created to assess the State's overall homeland security preparedness, policies, and communications and to advise on strategies to improve the current system. The Council considers the interdependencies between federal, state, and local governments, the Vermont National Guard, first responders, law enforcement, emergency managers, public health officials, and private community organizations and the programs these groups administer and advise on strategies to strengthen and bolster those relationships. The Council is mindful of available financial resources and advises on strategies that are consistent with existing fiscal realities.

https://governor.vermont.gov/boards_and_commissions/emergency_preparedness.

Mr. Burke noted that the council is basically a civilian oversight of the State of Vermont’s Emergency Response. Discussions in the past have typically been on grants, E911 Board during the transition, and COVID.

Some highlights from past meetings:

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

- COVID
 - The daily case count updates were only being reported out on PCR tests and not results entered by individuals. Hospital capacity was stable (5% from COVID) at the time.
 - Paxlovid is now available to anyone and there is plenty available. Trying to get the word out to providers that it can be provided to anyone over the age of 18. An individual can contact their healthcare provider and request it.
- Avian flu
 - There was only one private flock that was impacted. By the time the State went to investigate, the flock had been dispatched by the owner. The only way to deal with an outbreak is to depopulate. According to the State Veterinarian, there are 1.9 million birds per day that migrate through Vermont.
- Cyber security
 - There were no details shared on Vermont's security, just that it is covered. It was noted that energy and health are the biggest targets.

WINTER FUEL SHORTAGE PREPARATION

Mr. Rossi shared an overview of winter fuel shortage preparations from VEC's perspective. The presentation included a review of current activities, a VEC load shed flow chart, an overview of the Highgate Block along with a Highgate Block option, and an overview of the Newport Block along with a Newport Block option.

VEC has been reaching out to their municipalities and has heard from most municipalities with utilities that they would prefer to handle their own rolling blackouts. Mr. Ettori asked how communications would go: VELCO would notify VEC, VEC would then notify municipalities (to be monitored by VEC and if not fast enough, VEC would take action).

One of the first questions to be asked is whether the block load is on Hydro Quebec or the United States. If the block load is on Hydro Quebec, it can't be used towards load shed. If the block load is on the United States, could transfer this load to Hydro Quebec and this could count towards load shed.

VEC will be doing research this summer around the possibility of the Highgate Block option. Mr. Rossi noted a desire to hit an October deadline for decisions related to this possibility. It was decided to include a winter readiness update from VEC as a standing agenda item.

See presentation for details.

SCAP PROJECT SCHEDULE UPDATE

Mr. Connaughton provided a high level schedule of the upcoming SCAP projects. There are two projects in construction this year, Florence and N. Rutland. Highgate and Middlebury are next on the schedule. South Hero and St. Johnsbury follow after that. The goal is to have two stations that are in construction and, concurrently, two stations in design. 2023 and 2024 are a little different since there may be three stations that are under construction.

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

POTENTIAL WINTER SOLUTIONS TO REMEDIATE NEED FOR LOAD SHEDDING

Mr. Etori noted that the Transmission Owners met with ISO-NE over their concerns with the possibility of having to shed load during the winter. ISO-NE is conducting a scenario analysis study which will study the possibility of 1) doing nothing, 2) incentivizing to stock up on oil, 3) moving forward with an Inventory Energy program. ISO-NE is expected to provide results from the analysis in mid-July. If the analysis results in wanting to take action, ISO-NE would file with FERC and expect to have the solution implemented by September.

VELCO BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Etori indicated it is that time of year for budgets. He noted that if there is something the VT Distribution Utilities want VELCO to do, use the provided budget form. The request is for one year but VELCO does forecasts for two years, so please include things for two years out.

Mr. Etori noted that with respect to FERC Order 881, if this is something you want VELCO to do for you, consider including in the budget.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Mr. Dunn noted the VELCO Board Strategic Retreat was the first time together in 2.5 years. It was a good, two day event and included strategic direction for VELCO. The retreat included a state of the industry from Paul Hibbard, along with an overview of opportunities VELCO sees in the market place and feedback from the Board on direction.

TELECOM WORKING GROUP UPDATE

No update provided.

PNNL PROJECT UPDATE

No update provided.

ISO UPDATE

No update provided.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- None

Next meeting

Date: July 21, 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 update
- PNNL project update
- Bill Jordan visit (consider for August)
- VTAM updates
- VEC Winter Readiness update - standing agenda item

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn, Mr. Fitzhugh seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens
VELCO OC Secretary