

FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES

DATE: July 21, 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):** Josh Castonguay
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):** Brent Lilley
- **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

Tom Dunn (VELCO), Mike Fiske (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Ed McGann (VELCO), Dan Nelson (VELCO), Debra Perkins (VELCO), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Mark Sciarrotta (VELCO), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Karin Stamy (VELCO)

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

SAFETY TOPIC

Ms. Perkins shared that she is a physical security specialist at VELCO. As part of that role, she has been performing first responder outreach which includes site visits with first responders and developing response plans for VELCO facilities.

Ms. Perkins indicated she would like to develop a list of VT Distribution Utility security specialists. This would allow for collaboration between VELCO and the VT Distribution Utilities. Ms. Perkins asked the VT Distribution Utilities to either send her the name(s) of their security specialists or have them reach out directly to her.

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from June 16, 2022 for approval.

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

VTAM UPDATES

Ms. Stamy indicated she has received some comments on the VTAM updates and expressed her appreciation to those that have sent her comments. She expects to have an updated redline based on comments received. Ms. Stamy asked that the VTAM updates be put on the August agenda for review and discussion.

UPDATE ON FERC NOPRS

Mr. Sciarrotta provided a brief review of four Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPRs).

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RM21-17 (NOPR on transmission planning reforms)

Proposes reform to both the Open Access Transmission Tariff and the Large Generator Interconnection Agreement in order to correct deficiencies in regional transmission planning and cost allocation requirements. FERC is directing regions to start looking at public policy and planning. Comments are due Aug 17th. The issue of cost allocation will likely be further down the road.

RM22-10 (NOPR directing NERC to revise TPL-001-5.1 to address extreme cold and heat)

Directed at NERC, with no direct obligation on transmission owners. Proposes changes to TPL-001-5.1 that will require long-term planners to develop benchmark extreme weather planning cases and to implement Corrective Action Plans to mitigate instances where actual performance does not conform.

RM22-16 (NOPR directing transmission providers to submit a one-time report on extreme weather vulnerabilities)

Directed at transmission providers, requiring them to submit a one-time informational report describing their current or planned policies and processes for conducting extreme weather vulnerability assessments.

RM22-14 (NOPR on interconnection queue reforms)

Proposes reform to large and small generator interconnection procedures and agreements in order to address interconnection queue backlogs. Comments are due mid-October.

Per request, Mr. Sciarrotta provided the committee with the docket numbers and actual documents following the meeting.

VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE

Mr. Smith provided a brief update indicating VEC has had recent discussions with HQ and noted no obvious issues with plans to pursue the Highgate and Newport Block options. Additionally, VEC is in the midst of developing load rotation plans and performing a frequency load shed circuit review.

RECENT OPERATING EVENTS

Mr. McGann and Mr. Fiske provided a review of two recent operating events, K22 lightning event and K21 insulator failure.

See presentation for details.

RECOMMENDATION FROM ISO ON WINTER FUEL SECURITY

Mr. Etori noted that the Transmission Owners had previously met with ISO-NE over their concerns with the possibility of having to shed load during the winter. In response, ISO-NE conducted a scenario analysis study which studied the possibility of 1) doing nothing, 2) incentivizing to stock up on oil, 3) moving forward with an Inventory Energy program. Mr. Etori noted that as of last week, ISO-NE's recommendation is to do nothing. ISO-NE's reasoning for doing nothing further at this time is that there are incentives already in place. Additionally, prices are expected to decline and the expectation is that generators will increase their inventory as prices decline. ISO-NE has concerns with moving forward on a winter procurement program,

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believing this could have a negative effect on fuel availability.

Mr. Etori noted that the Transmission Owner sector is expected to accept the recommendation and hope this winter does not lead to a load shed event. Mr. Gibbons asked if we could decline acceptance, noting our concerns. Mr. Etori indicated there was no formal vote and these concerns were expressed at the Markets Committee. The next possible opportunity to go on record with respect to ISO-NE's position would possibly be at the Markets Committee in August.

TELECOM WORKING GROUP

No update provided.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABS (PNNL)

No update provided.

ISO UPDATE

No update provided.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open discussion

- Mr. Owyang indicated VELCO has asked VT Distribution Control Rooms to provide copies of their load shed procedures (OP7). VELCO would like to get these procedures by the end of the month. The request for these procedures is in support of the ISO-NE load shed tabletop exercise scheduled for October 12th, along with VELCO's Emergency Response Plan Exercise scheduled for October 25th which will be a tabletop exercise on system restoration. The expectation is to do a Vermont OP7 walk through at the November OC meeting.

Next meeting

Date: August 18, 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 (by exception)
- ISO update – standing agenda item (by exception)
- PNNL project update – Kerrick Johnson (August)
- VEC Winter Readiness update – standing agenda item
- Tafts Corner Project – Ed McGann (August)
- VTAM Updates (August)
- Needs Assessment – Hantz Presume (September)
- Vermont OP7 walk through (November)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Gibbons moved to adjourn, Mr. Powell seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tina Stevens
VELCO OC Secretary