

# **FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**DATE:** November 17, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

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

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Arienne Conde (VELCO), Kristin Carlson (GMP), Andrea Cohen (VEC), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Frank Etti (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Shana Louise (VELCO), Candace Morgan (GMP), Ken Nolan (VPPSA), Hantz Pr sum  (VELCO), Doug Smith (GMP), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.), Emily Stebbins-Wheelock (BED)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Owyang reminded everyone of the need for winter tires and caution on slippery roads with the rapid onset of winter weather.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from October 20, 2022 for approval.

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

## **VERMONT OP7 WALK THROUGH**

Ms. Stevens provided an overview of VELCO Operating Procedure No. 7, which included recent updates and coordination for a multi-day load shed event. See presentation for details.

Ms. Louise provided a brief overview of how communications would flow in response to an event requiring controlled outages. She noted the Corporate Communications teams from VELCO and the utilities are meeting tomorrow to continue work on a joint messaging strategy to be used in response to such an event.

Ms. Carlson shared an overview of GMP's strategy for notifications to customers in preparation for a controlled outage event. GMP has created a dynamic map which will be used to inform customers when they are projected to be out. This will allow families to stay informed and to make necessary plans in advance of such outages.

Mr. Nolan next shared VPPSA's strategy for communications with customers noting the challenges associated with having municipalities spread amongst the service territories of GMP, VEC, and VELCO.

## **FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

Ms. Cohen then shared VEC's strategy for communicating with customers during an event requiring controlled outages. Ms. Cohen stressed the need for clear communication in order to avoid confusion and panic with the public. Mr. Rossi noted the messaging may be different for an immediate issue vs a long term planned issue and asked for this consideration when developing the joint messaging.

### **VTAM UPDATE**

No update provided.

### **NEEDS ASSESSMENT & OPEN ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

Mr. Owyang indicated ISO-NE has begun the Vermont Needs Assessment.

### **ISO UPDATE**

Mr. Ettori shared a brief update indicating ISO-NE is looking to expand the Inventory Energy Program (IEP). ISO-NE is also looking to change the trigger price in order to adjust for current fuel prices.

### **PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABS (PNNL)**

Mr. Stamp provided a brief update noting the Phase II RFP has been received and is currently being reviewed. With respect to Phase I, they are currently refining the data requirements.

### **VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE**

Mr. Rossi indicated Irasburg 1A has been added to the Newport Tie, which is an increase of approximately 1.5 MW. VEC is currently waiting for Hydro Quebec to perform their study related to the Highgate Tie.

### **TELECOM WORKING GROUP**

Mr. Stamp provided an update noting they have applied for over 10,000 poles, there is presently one crew working in the WEC service territory, next up they will be doing a lessons learned review and will then proceed with the project.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Open discussion**

- Vice Chair Position: The Committee has decided to leave the Vice Chair position vacant for the time being.

#### **Next meeting**

**Date:** December 15, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Green Mountain Power Colchester, VT

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

- Mr. Johnson will coordinate with DPS personnel for their attendance at a meeting immediately preceding the December 15 OC to cover the communications plan connected with this winter's controlled outages contingency planning. Subject to Mr. Johnson's confirmation, the plan will be for that pre-meeting to occur December 15 in Colchester from 1230-130pm. The OC will commence immediately thereafter. For

## **FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

anyone attending in person, lunch will be available in Colchester at noon, as usual.

- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item (by exception)
- ISO update, including any update on Mystic Cost of Service Agreement (by exception)
- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness update – standing agenda item
- Tafts Corner Project – Mr. McGann
- Franklin County Line Upgrade – Mr. Mallory

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Stevens  
VELCO OC Secretary