

# **FINAL VELCO Operating Committee MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 16, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

- **Burlington Electric Department (BED):** James Gibbons,
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP):**
- **Stowe Electric Department (SED):** Jackie Pratt, Brent Lilley
- **Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC):** Peter Rossi, Kris Smith
- **Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO):** Colin Owyang, Tina Stevens, Jaime Smyrski
- **Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA):** Mike Sullivan
- **Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC):** Bill Powell

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Dan Kopin (VELCO), Scott Mallory (VELCO), Tom Dunn (VELCO), Brian Connaughton (VELCO), Hantz Presume (VELCO), Kerrick Johnson (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO), Allen Stamp (AP Stamp, Inc.)

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Owyang verified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:35p.m.

## **SAFETY TOPIC**

Mr. Owyang shared tips for eye wellness month.

## **DRAFT MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Owyang presented the meeting minutes from February 16, 2023 for approval.

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

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY LINE UPGRADE**

Mr. Mallory provided a presentation of the proposed FCLU/K42 line upgrade project. This line is in need of an upgrade. Structures are from 1958 and in need of replacement. The proposed project will include live line work, while the existing line is in service, shifting current H-frame structures to single, taller steel structures with double conductor. Mr. Mallory will look at the price comparison of steel vs. wood poles. These structures are going to be very robust and the biggest single poles in our fleet. Mr. Mallory reviewed the cost effectiveness of this project. Mr. Gibbons asked for clarification in how certain benefits were described. Mr. Mallory provided an overview of the project status to date including public outreach, work with ISO-NE, landowners and VELCO crews. Discussion ensued regarding the rationale for switching from H-frames to single poles; if this project will be approved for PTF funding; and if there are currently any supply chain issues that will hold up this project. The FCLU project will be a standing agenda item by exception on future OC agendas upon requesting a Certificate of Public Good.

## **LONGEVITY OF FIBER RELIABILITY PROGRAM**

Mr. Stamp stated the crews are ahead on make ready, 300 miles tasked and scaling up this spring by adding two more line crews. We are receiving required permits. Challenges are finding a good spot to connect back to the VELCO network. Mr. Rossi questioned what the

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process is for getting in after the initial project has started. This will be added to the telecom subcommittee to discuss.

### **OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Ms. Stevens provided a brief update on Operations, noting the recent completion of six weeks of system restoration training with full participation from the VDU's. Ms. Stevens also provided staff updates inside the Control Center. Lastly, Ms. Stevens provided a load update highlighting the impact of the increasing solar installations. An Operations update will be a standing agenda item going forward.

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

Mr. Presume noted nothing new to share and no updates.

### **ISO UPDATE**

Mr. Johnson discussed the Mystic January billing. We will be having a call with the DU's and ISO-NE to discuss. Consumer liaison group has a new member. We are making a learning opportunity of what we could have done in the process of this. Not a lot of hope for a quick change. Nothing of potential that merits discussion at this point.

### **PNNL PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Connaughton noted that Mr. Kopin will co-chair the subcommittee going forward. Mr. Kopin will also navigate the second phase of the work which has been awarded. We are preparing for April 13<sup>th</sup> in person meeting at GMP Colchester to walk the team through where we are at and how we prepare for the second phase and where we want to go going forward. We are working with Battel and DOE for in person meeting in early May to have a kickoff meeting at VELCO in Rutland.

### **VEC WINTER READINESS UPDATE**

Mr. Rossi and Mr. Smith stated that the PUC has opened a fact finding investigation about collective response to the outages during Christmas and the PUC will be holding a workshop. Mr. Johnson will consult with the DU's in the legislative consulting group. Mr. Johnson will plan to be on the agenda on the April OC to discuss Rhizome.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Open discussion**

#### **Next meeting**

**Date:** April 20, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

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

- VELCO Operations Monthly highlights – standing agenda item
- Needs Assessment & Open Action Item review – standing agenda item
- Telecom Working Group – standing agenda item (by exception)
- ISO update (by exception)

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- PNNL project update (by exception)
- VEC Winter Readiness update – standing agenda item (by exception)
- FCLU updates – standing agenda item
- Rhizome
- VELCO’s ability to provide fiber connection to DUs

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn, Mr. Gibbons seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Smyrski  
VELCO OC Secretary