



**Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2024
Rutland, Vermont**

The Vermont System Planning Committee held a quarterly meeting on October 23, 2024. Shana Louiselle, VSPC facilitator, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Louiselle reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Bill Powell moved to approve the July 17, 2024 minutes, and Susan Paruch seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

Introductions

A list of attendees by sector appears at the end of these minutes.

Geographic Targeting Subcommittee Report

Ms. Louiselle reported the Geographic Targeting Subcommittee reviewed the geographic targeting recommendation letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC), and is seeking approval from the full Committee. Ms. Louiselle asked for questions and comments before moving to approval of the draft as distributed.

Kamran Hassan moved and Jonathan Dowds seconded approval of the GT recommendations, which were approved without objection.

The recommendations will be filed with the PUC by January 15, 2025. [Note: the letter was filed on October 31, 2024.]

Flexible Load Management Working Group Report

Philip Picotte, Utilities Economic Analyst at the Vermont Public Service Department (PSD), reported on the October meeting of the working group. The group completed a flexible load management inventory document that highlights 41 flexible load management programs including time of use rates. Some utilities identified the challenge that not enough savings are being retained to justify all of the programs, and will need to look at other revenue streams that come from flexible load programs. The working group will continue to meet to identify the utilities' the vision and goals for flexible load management programs for the future. The working group will meet next in late November/early December.

Technical Working Group Report

Ms. Louiselle reported that the Technical Working Group last met in June and is in a holding pattern

until VELCO completes its additional analysis to identify the scale, duration, timing, and locational value of load reduction for the areas of concern identified in the 2024 Vermont Long-Range Plan. VELCO committed to refining the long-range plan analysis to better understand the scope of the reliability issues, and expects to have results available in early 2025.

Coordinating Subcommittee

Ms. Louiselle announced the proposed 2025 VSPC calendar to include January 22, April 30, July 16 and October 29 which was approved by the Committee. Ms. Louiselle then welcomed new PUC-appointed members:

- Molly Mahar, Commercial and Industrial alternate;
- Jonathan Dowds, Supply and Demand Side primary;
- Jack Greene, Supply and Demand Side alternate;
- Jeff Cram, GF Power primary, large distribution utility without transmission; and,
- Jennifer Robbins, GF Power alternate, large distribution utility without transmission.

GF Power Introduction

Jeff Cram, Deputy Director of Electrical Distribution and Sustainable Energy at Global Foundries (GF), provided an overview of the company's Vermont site, a 675-acre facility employing 1,800 people. As a major semiconductor manufacturer, GF operates 24/7, producing products for the Department of Defense and various technologies. In October 2022, the Vermont Public Utility Commission approved GF's plan to form its own electric utility, GF Power, and operate as a single customer utility. GF Power is a direct customer of VELCO and ISO-New England, working with Green Mountain Power on a transitional PPA.

Mr. Cram highlighted GF's commitment to reducing their carbon footprint through initiatives like their journey to zero carbon program, onsite solar projects aiming to produce 7-20 megawatts of electricity on-site, a 15-megawatt utility-scale battery storage project for peak shaving and renewable energy storage, and exploring renewable hydrogen for heating. He acknowledged the need to procure more electricity and mentioned ongoing efficiency projects, such as replacing older chillers for significant electricity savings. The full presentation is available [here](#).

ISO-New England Regional Update

Sarah Adams, Vermont External Affairs Representatives for ISO-NE, provided updates on the regional market highlights, the 2023 ISO-NE Electric Generator Air Emission Report, the 2025 Annual Work Plan and the Economic Planning for the Clean Energy Transition draft plan.

Market highlights: Electricity prices in August were around \$39/MWh, with nearly half of generation coming from natural gas. The Internal Market Monitor's 2023 annual report showed lower wholesale costs driven by lower natural gas prices.

2023 ISO-NE Electric Generator Air Emission Report: The report found that from 2001 through 2023, CO₂ emission fell by 40%, NO_x emissions fell by 82%, and SO₂ emission fell by 99%.

2025 Annual Work Plan: ISO-NE's 2025 anchor projects include Capacity Auction Reforms, Regional Energy Shortfall Threshold, and implementation of FERC Order Nos. 1920 and 2023, first competitive

solicitation for Longer-Term Transmission Planning, transmission sizing for the clean energy transition, and inclusion of grid enhancing technologies into transmission planning,

Economic Planning for the Clean Energy Transition (EPCET): Draft report published in August. Key findings include peak demand could vary by up to 50% between mild and severe winters by 2050; Spring will be mostly decarbonized by 2040, but a small portion of winter days will still produce significant emissions in 2050; if the 2050 resource build-out is almost entirely wind, solar, and batteries, the region will need a power system that is roughly four times its current capacity to achieve state emissions goals and maintain reliability; and Firm, dispatchable, zero-carbon generation could help address challenges. The plan concludes the eliminating carbon emissions through complete electrification and near-exclusive reliance on wind, solar, and storage is possible, and involve significant cost and unresolved reliability concerns. The ISO plans to assess the need for future market rule enhancements to support the ongoing reliability and economic of the region's grid.

The full presentation is available [here](#).

Energy Action Network 2024 Annual Progress Report

The Energy Network Action team presented on their recently published *The Annual Progress Report for Vermont* which provides an in-depth analysis of where Vermont stands relative to its climate commitments and energy goals. Lena Stier, Data Manager & Research Analyst, Cara Robecheck, Deputy Director & Network Manager, and Jared Duval, Executive Director discussed key findings highlighting the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters and record temperatures both globally and in Vermont. While Vermont has made some progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the transportation and thermal sectors remain the largest contributors and require significant reductions to meet the Global Warming Solutions Act goals. The presentation emphasized the economic and societal costs of inaction on climate change, noting that transitioning away from fossil fuels can benefit the state economy and individual consumers. They highlighted Vermont's leadership in areas like electric vehicle adoption and renewable energy integration, while acknowledging lagging areas such as per capita emissions. The need for policy action to accelerate progress was underscored, and examples of successful policies in other states were provided. The presentation also showcased interactive dashboards on the EAN website that track emissions and the adoption of clean energy technologies. Finally, they discussed the implications of increased electrification for the electricity grid, emphasizing the need for demand management strategies and continued investment in energy efficiency and battery storage. The full presentation is available [here](#).

Policy and Project Updates

2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan Areas of Concern: Kamran Hassan of Green Mountain Power reported on next steps in the non-transmission alternative (NTA) analysis process. GMP will lead the NTA study group in coordination with all affected utilities, and examine the specific areas of grid concern as identified in the 2024 VT Long-Range Transmission Plan. Before exploring potential solutions, the study group will need to understand the scope of each issue, including its operational impact, duration, and frequency. VELCO is currently performing additional analysis that will produce an 8760 curve to better characterize the problem by the end of the year. Mr. Hassan also noted that the analysis should consider the impact of existing and planned flexible load management programs, particularly for EV charging.

DOE Grid Resilience & Innovation Program updates: Shana Louiselle reported that VELCO’s proposed VELCO's Alliance Transmission Project was not selected for DOE grant funding. VELCO will continue to pursue future funding opportunities. NESCOE provided details on the upcoming Longer Term Transmission Planning (LTTP) RFP, focused on increasing transfer capability from Maine to New Hampshire. Key dates: RFP issuance (March 2025), bid submission (September 2025), and solution selection (March 2026).

DRAFT

Attendance

* Indicates voting member

** Indicates alternate

Public Sector

- **Susan Paruch, Residential representative
- **George Gross, Regional Planning rep
- *Johanna Miller, Environmental representative
- **Steve Crowley, Environmental representative
- *Michael Kirick, Commercial representative
- **Molly Mahar, Commercial representative

Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- *Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- *Kamran Hassan, GMP
- **Doug Smith, GMP
- **Michael Beaulieu, VEC

Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

- *Bill Powell, WEC
- *Munir Kasti, BED
- *Jeff Cram, GFPower

Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

Brian Evans-Mungeon, Village of Hyde Park

Supply & Demand Resources

- *Dave Westman, EVT
- *Jonathan Dowds, Supply Representative

**Jack Greene, Supply Representative

Non-Voting Members

TJ Poore, PSD
Lou Cecere, PSD

Staff

Shana Louiselle, VELCO

Guests

Brad Williams, BED
Brian Hall, VEC
Cam Twarog, GMP
Craig Kieny, VEC
Dan Kopin, VELCO
Heather D'Arcy, VPPSA
Jay Pilliod, VEIC
Khalid Osman, VELCO
Marc Allen, VELCO
Morgan Casella, Dynamic Organics
Paul Pickna, VEC
Philip Picotte, PSD
Sarah Adams, ISO-NE
Tom Dunn, VELCO
Tom Knauer, PUC
Tom Lyle, BED
Warren Coleman, MMR
Zakia El Omari, VELCO