

NVDA Wind Study Committee – Meeting #7 – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 14, 2013 – Barton Municipal Building

In attendance: Jim Greenwood (NVDA – Committee Chair), Dave Snedeker (NVDA – Committee Staff), Robert Croteau (Barton - Committee), Mark Whitworth (Newark – Committee), Farley Brown (Craftsbury – Committee) and John Morley (NVDA Board President). Public: Ed Helm. Guests: Kerrick Johnson, VELCO

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. by J. Greenwood. Welcome to guests and committee introductions made. Discussed NVDA Board Resolution recommending suspension of industrial-scale wind for further study; formation of NVDA Study Committee and development of outline; invitations to experienced speakers/representatives by Committee to inform study.

KJ – VELCO is statewide transmission-only company. Owned by distribution utilities. Connects smaller systems and brings power to VT.

- Distributed generation is up to 2MW. Energy Switching is occurring.
- Forecast load growth of <1% going forward and trend is decreasing.
- Costs to connect to grid are increasing, while costs to exit grid are decreasing.
- Transmission costs are increasing. VELCO is taking projects off the table as they assess whether they really need to build all that they wanted to build.
- Transmission is being used for economic development. This differs from reliability projects.

JG inquired about effects of State energy policy on Transmission? KJ – Utilities pay for reliability projects. Developers would pay transmission costs for non-reliability projects.

KJ – In Maine and VT, lots of wind projects proposed in areas with weak transmission systems. FERC did relieve wind generators of some requirements that other generators would need to adhere to (GMP avoided studies).

KJ provided handout from presentation to VT Transco Operating Committee. Noted that no reliability projects are proposed for NEK region of VT. Map in VELCO Long-range Transmission Plan indicates where new generation should be sited.

KJ – ISO-NE recognizes state policies and works to accommodate those policies, but reliability is paramount. ISO is developing protocols to minimize curtailment. (Letters to-from Gov. and ISO)

MW inquired about 'spinning reserve'? KJ – the synchronous condenser for the GMP KCW project was paid for by GMP. No VELCO funding. More generation can flow in this area because of the condenser.

KJ acknowledged that transmission costs are increasing. Adding new generation strains transmission in some areas. Adding/upgrading transmission adds to costs.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Minutes by D. Snedeker