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# STAR Group, LLC

Date: May 9, 2006  
 To: Members of the Southern Loop Community Working Group  
 From: Chris Kenny, Process Manager  
 Re: Notes from April 27, 2006 CWG Meeting

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Alan Dann, Progressive Party	Audrey Garfield, Town of Brattleboro
Greg Wordon, Town of Brattleboro	Lee Krohn, Town of Manchester
John Haugsrud, Quadra-Tek/Arlington Industries	Brian Keefe, Office of Senator Jim Jeffords
Hervey Scudder, Northeast Center for Social Issues Studies	Marge Fish, Londonderry Rescue Squad
Tad Montgomery, Brattleboro Climate Protection	Ellen Viereck, Forest Watch
Rick Gauthier, Bennington Police Department	Kevin Dailey, Mack Molding
Eric Stevens, Windham Regional Commission	
Jenna Pugliese, Stratton Mountain	
John Cuman, Bromley Mountain	
Debbie Boyle, Brattleboro Development Corporation	
Bill Calfee, Consultant	
Craig Miskovich, Downs, Rachlin & Martin	<u>Guests Present</u>
Rachael Pendleton Fredericks, Efficiency Vermont	Sharyn Brush, Town of Manchester (Leadership Team Member)
Rick Foley, Keene State College	Jim Matteau, Windham Regional Planning Commission (Leadership Team Member)
Kevin Duby, Brattleboro Retreat Healthcare	Craig Armstrong, VELCO
Mark Gilmore, Vermont Yankee	Bruce Bentley, CVPS
Lissa Luke, Bennington Regional Commission	Bob Hoover, CPM Technical Solutions
Bill Nupp, Stratton Mountain	
Kim Jones, CVPS	
Rip Kirby, CVPS	
Dean LaForest, VELCO	

The Southern Loop Community Working Group (“CWG”) held a meeting at Stratton Mountain Inn on Thursday, April 27, 2006 from 4 – 6 p.m. After welcome and introductions and a review of the Ground Rules, Chris explained that the primary purpose of today’s meeting was to examine the transmission line options that had been identified at the Utility Search Conference (“USC”). Chris further explained that by starting with transmission, the CWG had not given the transmission line option for resolving the Southern Loop issues a higher priority than any of the other USC recommendations; rather, transmission was the topic of today’s meeting solely because the CWG, at its March 16 meeting, had identified transmission as the first recommendation about which the CWG wanted to learn more.

Before asking Dean LaForest to address the group regarding the transmission line alternatives identified at the USC, Hervey Scudder and Craig Miskovich addressed the group (at their request). Hervey explained that his organization may try to develop an electric generation project for possible use within CVPS’s service territory. This project may result in Hervey’s group negotiating with and entering into a contract with CVPS. Hervey wanted the group to be aware of this possibility.

Craig told the group that after the USC in January, the law firm at which Craig works began representing VELCO in transmission related matters and other matters unrelated to the subject matter of the CWG. To date, Craig has not been involved in any of these projects. If Craig begins work for VELCO in transmission related matters or other matters unrelated to the subject matter of the CWG, he will notify the CWG. If Craig begins work for VELCO on Southern Loop matters, he will withdraw from the CWG.

Dean LaForest made a presentation to the group describing some of the electric reliability issues, both within the Southern Loop and across Vermont more generally that might be affected through the use of the transmission line options identified at the USC. Members present at the April 27 meeting were given a copy of Dean’s presentation, which may also be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.velco.com/Templates/default.asp?pageId=48>.

Members were invited to ask questions throughout Dean’s presentation. While most questions were answered, the group agreed that there were several issues that require additional information and/or discussion. These are (in order identified by the group):

- What would be the height difference, if any, between the existing 345kV transmission line H-frame structure that runs between Coolidge and Vermont Yankee and the new North-South line H-frame structure that would be built adjacent to the existing line (if this option were selected)?

- One possible strategy that VELCO and CVPS might consider: Since the North-South line seems to provide a great deal of benefit for the New England grid as a whole and since ISO-NE's existing financial structure currently limits financial incentives to those projects involving transmission/distribution systems, perhaps VELCO and CVPS could use the selection of the North-South line option as leverage with ISO-NE to get ISO-NE to adopt financial incentives for DG and DSM. If ISO-NE were to adopt financial incentives for DG and DSM, it might provide additional impetus for developing DG and DSM solutions for the Southern Loop as contributions to the overall VELCO/CVPS Southern Loop proposal.
- We ought to have some independent analysis of the health issues (particularly electromagnetic fields) associated with the two transmission line options being considered. Craig Armstrong noted that there are several reports the group may wish to consider on this subject. These include Vermont's policy of "prudent avoidance" of electromagnetic fields, as articulated on pages 7-34 through 7-37 of the Vermont Department of Public Service's "Vermont Electric Plan 2005" (published January 19, 2005), which may be viewed at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/pub/state-plans/state-plan-electric2005.pdf>. Additional testimony regarding EMF and electric transmission lines may be viewed at [http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/rad\\_health.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/rad_health.aspx) and at <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/VELCOtestimony.pdf>. Craig also mentioned an EMF analysis that was prepared by the National Institutes of Health. That analysis may be viewed at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/booklet/emf2002.pdf>. The group agreed that these reports would be useful resources and that additional discussion on this topic may be required at a future CWG meeting.
- The group would like an explanation about the possible benefits of building a new substation at West Dummerston, to be connected to the existing 345kV North-South line, which would in turn support the load in Brattleboro. Would this option eliminate the need to build either the new North-South line or the new East-West line?
- The group also would like to understand why it might not be necessary to build both the new North-South line and the new East-West line.
- Most of the options being discussed today involved construction of new facilities in the eastern portion of the Southern Loop. Why shouldn't construction occur first on the western portion of the Southern Loop?
- Why aren't ski areas being used to establish wind generation?
- What are the economic impacts of the transmission options on VELCO? On CVPS? On Vermont ratepayers? Do VELCO and/or CVPS have a financial incentive to promote one option over another (or to promote transmission over DG or DSM)?

- For future meetings, it would be helpful to have laminated system maps for all to use during the meeting. For security reasons, everyone agreed that these maps should be returned at the end of each meeting.

Some raised a concern that, given the number of follow-up issues identified above, we might shortchange the primary focus of next month's meeting (our May 25 meeting will focus on DG and DSM opportunities for the Southern Loop). To address this concern, we will try to get as many of the above issues addressed via email prior to next meeting. Also, please be aware that you should feel free to ask questions, either through Chris or through the CWG representatives from CVPS and/or VELCO, between meetings. Further, we will begin next month's meeting by discussing any remaining questions that CWG members may have concerning the issues identified above. To the extent that we are not able to cover all of the DG and DSM issues at the May meeting, we will continue the DG/DSM conversation in June.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Bruce Bentley distributed a copy of a document entitled "Demand-Side Management (DSM) Opportunities in the Southern Loop." Bruce explained that he would be presenting this information at the May 25 CWG meeting. Bruce also let members know that this report, as well as information on DG that he will present in May, would be made available on the Southern Loop web page. These two reports may be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.velco.com/Templates/default.asp?pageId=48>.

Our next CWG meeting will be held at the Mt. Anthony Country Club, 180 Country Club Drive (telephone 802-442-2617) on Thursday, May 25, 2006 from 4 – 6 p.m. So that I can have an accurate count, please let me know if you plan to attend.

As always, I am extremely grateful for the time and dedication you have devoted to this process.