



New Zoom
meeting
platform

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Remote Participation via Zoom¹

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81136818419?pwd=dDFDbDhrTm56TUNQUl3WEorYzRZZz09>

Dial in via phone²: +1 929 436 2866; Meeting ID: 811 3681 8419 | Passcode: 722490

Download the app at least 5 minutes before the meeting starts: <https://zoom.us/download>

Page **AGENDA**

- 6:30³ Adjustments to the Agenda**
Public Comments
- 6:35 2021 VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan**, Shana Louiselle (enclosed)
https://www.vermontspc.com/assets/documents/2021Plan_publicreview_draft.pdf
- 7:35 FY22 Nominations** (enclosed)
Presentation of slate; final opportunity for nominations from the floor
- 7:45 Municipal Updates**
An opportunity for Board members to share news from their communities.
- 8:15 Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021** (enclosed)⁴
- 8:20 Reports** (enclosed)
Update/questions on Staff, Director, and Committee Reports
- 8:30 Adjournment**

Next Meeting: June 8, 2021

¹ Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or chartrand@cvregion.com at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

² Dial-in numbers are toll numbers. Fees may be charged dependent on your phone service.

³ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

Draft 2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan

Public Meetings

April 28 & May 5



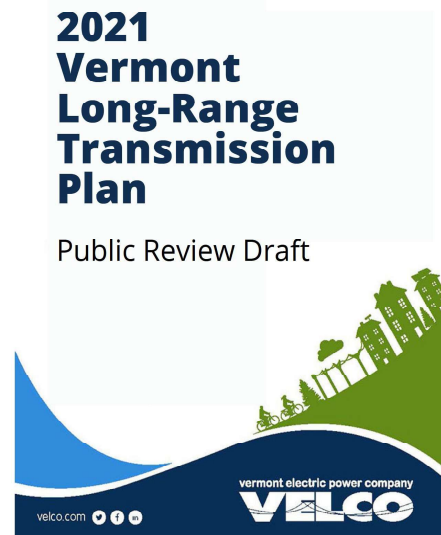
2021 VT Long-Range Transmission Plan

- Plan and associated public outreach required by Vermont statute and Public Utility Commission order
- To support full, fair and timely consideration of all cost-effective non-wires solutions to growth-related issues
- To inform utilities, regulators, generation/storage developers and other stakeholders in development of projects and policy



Questions for you

- What questions do you have about the process, the analysis and the conclusions?
- What feedback do you have about the plan?
- What is happening locally that is important to understanding the evolution of Vermont's electric grid?
- What else?



What's important to remember

- System reliability will be maintained
- Vermont is a transmission-dependent state
- Significant load growth expected – winter peaking
- No major upgrades needed to serve load within the 10-year horizon
 - Presumes additional load management capability
 - Does not resolve all local concerns
- Incremental solar does not reduce load at peak hour
 - Efficiency and solar PV have provided great value
- VT utilities continue to implement innovative programs
- Further collaboration and innovation needed to achieve renewable and climate-driven requirements

Studies underlying the plan



2019 studies per NERC
standards



Analyses use mandatory NERC, NPCC, ISO-NE
reliability/planning standards enforceable by fines



Provides input to forecast
and overall plan

5



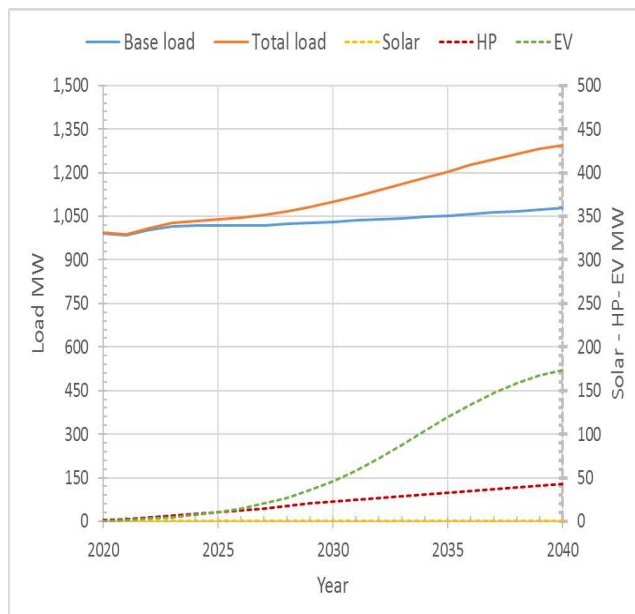
THE FORECASTS

6

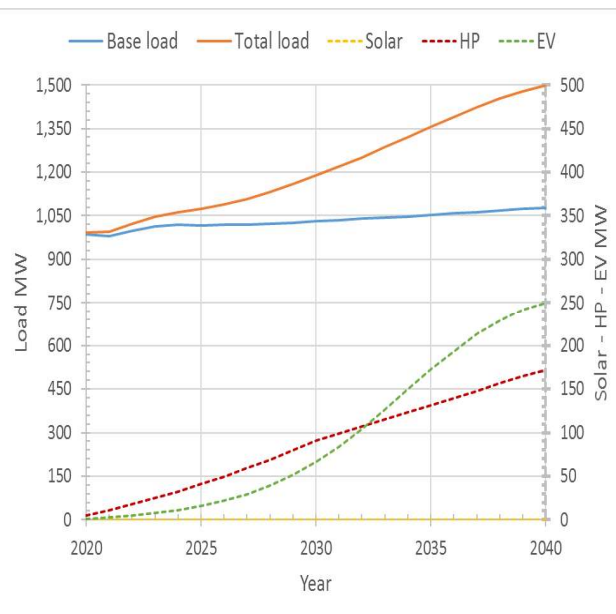


Summer and Winter Medium Peak Load Forecast Components

Summer Peak Load Forecast



Winter Peak Load Forecast

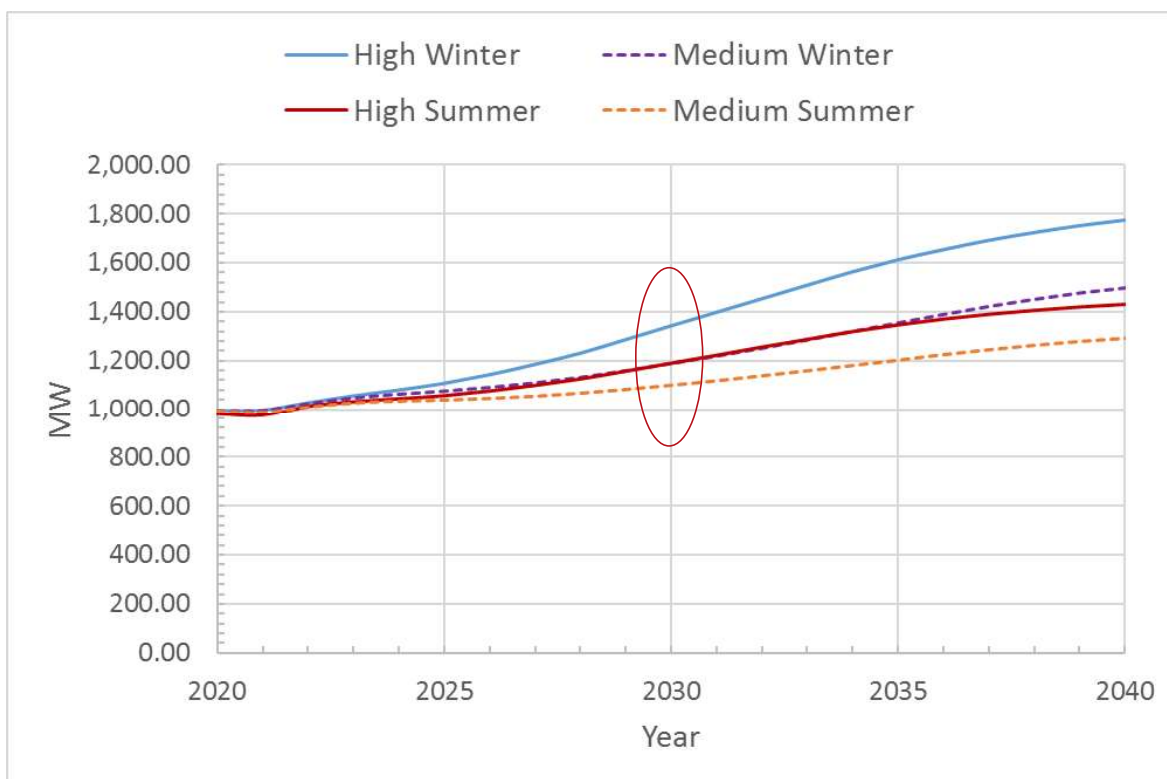


Technology forecasts do not include effect of load control

7



Load forecast scenarios



8



Load forecast scenarios

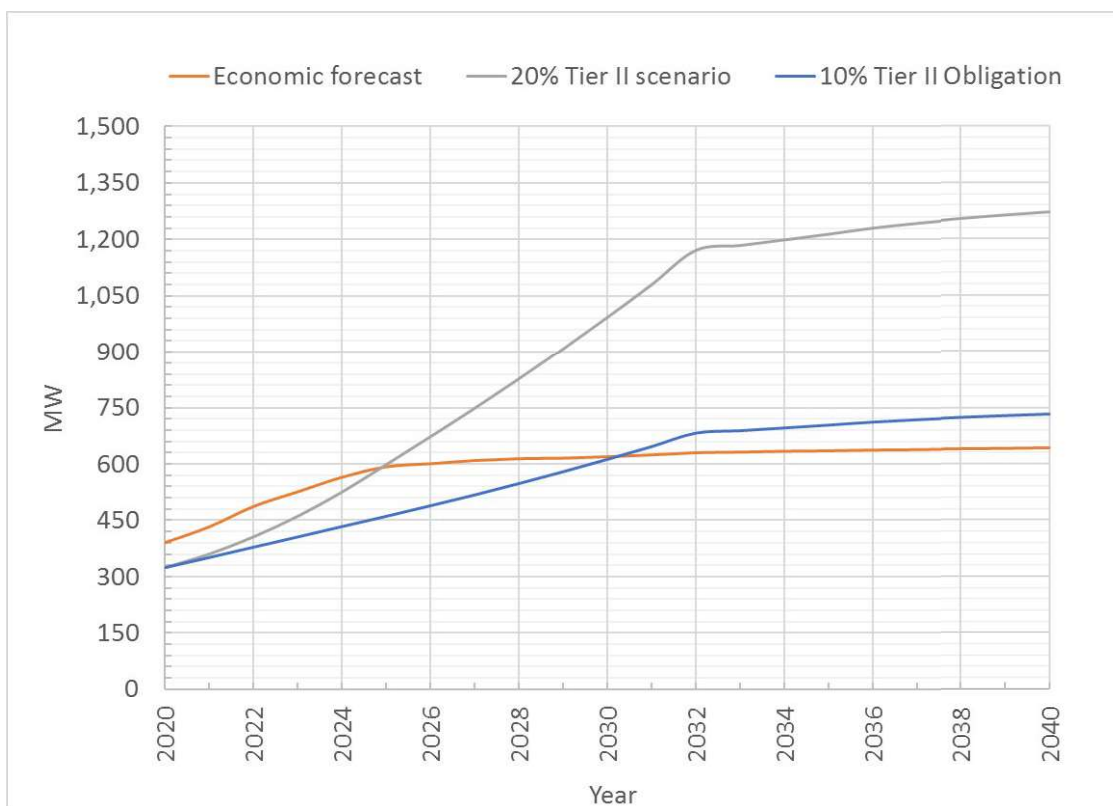
	Low forecast scenario		Medium forecast scenario		High forecast scenario		All-time peak (year)	Historical 5-yr average
Year	2030	2040	2030	2040	2030	2040		
Summer	1071 MW	1185 MW	1119 MW	1294 MW	1189 MW	1430 MW	1118 MW (2006)	950 MW
Winter	1135 MW	1292 MW	1219 MW	1499 MW	1342 MW	1774 MW	1086 MW (2004/05)	970 MW

	Actual	Low forecast scenario		Medium forecast scenario		High forecast scenario	
Year	2020	2030	2040	2030	2040	2030	2040
Electric Vehicles	3912	36080	126184	71624	256417	190125	412689
Heat Pumps	4611	61185	80141	77685	149141	110185	254141

450,000 light-duty vehicles today – did not forecast trucks, buses, etc.
320,000 residential customers today



Solar PV growth scenarios



RESULTS

ABILITY TO SERVE PEAK LOADS

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No major upgrades needed to serve load within the 10-year horizon

Bulk system

- No peak load concerns. Issues addressed with tie line adjustments

Predominantly bulk system

- No peak load concerns. Issues addressed by tie line adjustments and operator actions
- Acceptable loss of load (5-150 MW). As a direct consequence of outage and operator actions.

Subtransmission issues

- Flagged some issues to be evaluated by distribution utilities

High-load scenario

- Minimal effect within 10 years
- After 10 years, requires non-transmission solutions to avoid transmission upgrades: load management, energy efficiency, storage, generation, ...

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RESULTS

ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (DG)

13



Transm line upgrades

Transformer upgrades

Location matters

- Current geographical distribution will cause additional overloads and voltage concerns
- Optimizing DG distribution avoids major upgrades

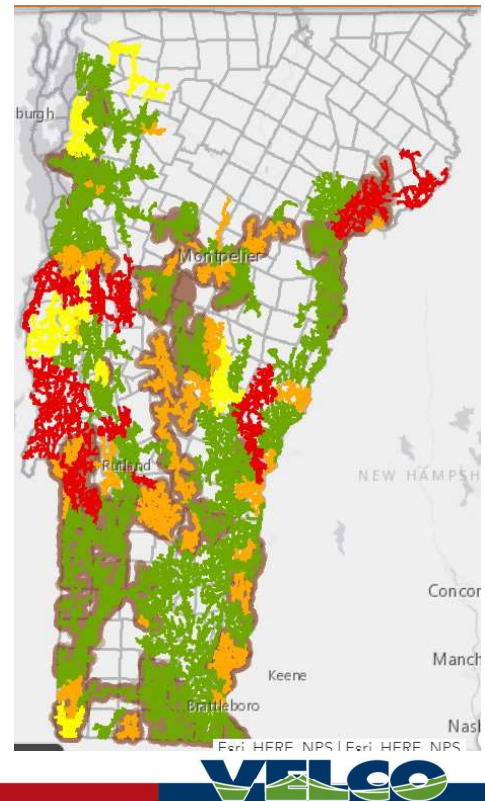
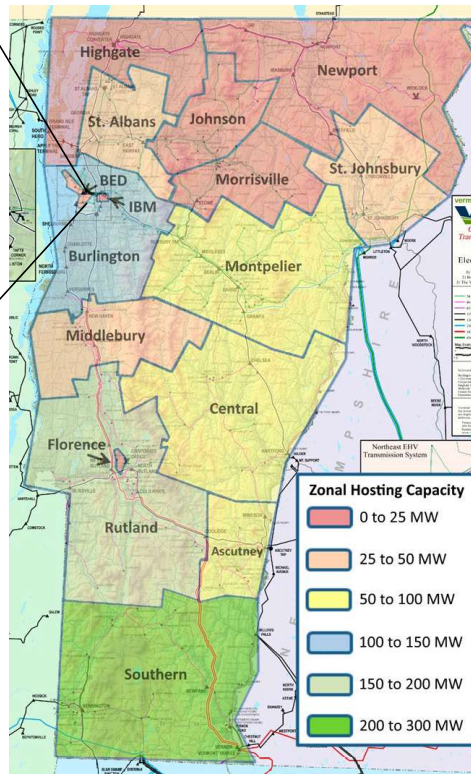
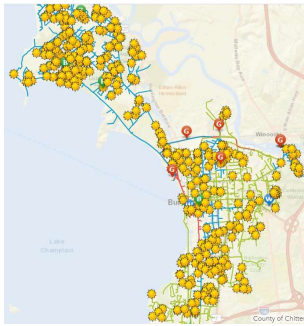
Represents newly observed overloads in 2021 analysis

14



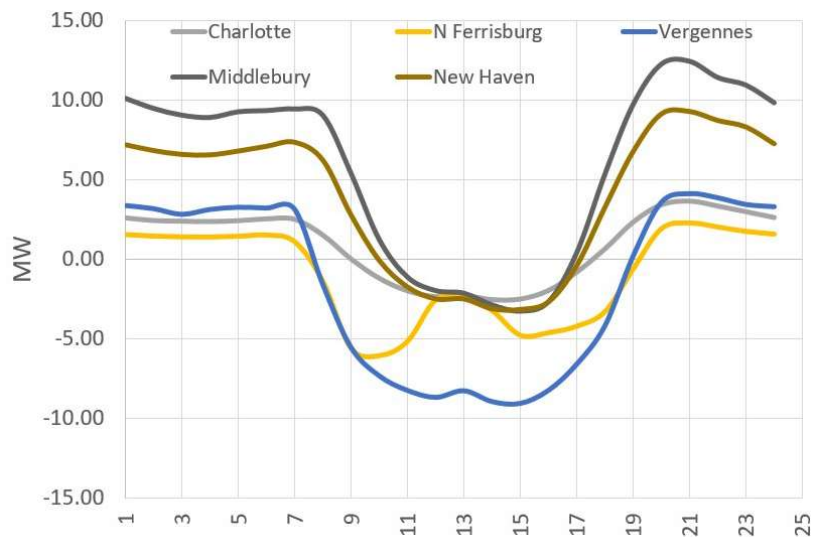
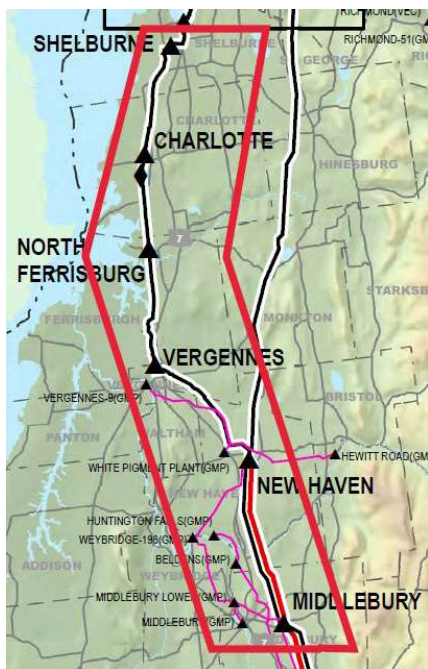
BED additional
solar PV Map

GMP additional
solar PV Map



15

DER affecting substation clusters



16

Controls to address non-optimized system concerns

Zonal Names	Non-optimized	Optimized	Excess
St Johnsbury	35.6	30	5.6
Newport	17.2	5.4	11.8
Highgate	57.9	19.8	38.1
Johnson	12.2	20	
Burlington	247.8	126.2	121.6
BED	23.7	7.5	16.2
Montpelier	90.3	76.8	13.5
Morrisville	39.9	25	14.9
Middlebury	91	50	41
Rutland	134.6	151.9	
Ascutney	59.8	73	
Southern	148.6	251.5	
St Albans	95.9	40	55.9
Central	126.9	98.7	28.2
Florence	0.6	20	
IBM	0	0	
Zonal Totals	1182	995.8	346.8

- Estimate of storage, curtailment or load management
 - 350MW for at least 4 hours (1400 MWh)

Recommendations

- Give greater weight to grid impacts when siting generation
- Bring to scale flexible load management
 - Enable inverter grid support functionality, i.e., voltage control and ride through capability
 - Enable utility management of distributed generation
 - Continue to evolve with storage
 - Establish data organizational architecture
 - Deepen/broaden fiber communications network
- Grid reinforcements (e.g., transmission, subtransmission and distribution investments)

Next outreach steps

- Continue direct, key stakeholder discussions
- Two virtual public meetings
 - Wednesday, April 28, 11am – 1pm
 - Wednesday, May 5, 5pm – 7pm
- Incorporate public comments in report
- Submit report to VT Public Utility Commission by July 1, 2021

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Questions for you

- What questions do you have about the process, the analysis and the conclusions?
- What feedback do you have about the plan?
- What is happening locally that is important to understanding the evolution of Vermont's electric grid?
- What else?

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- Using the comment form at www.velco.com/2021plan
- By mail: Shana Louiselle, Facilitator
VELCO
366 Pinnacle Ridge Road
Rutland, VT 05701
- By email: slouiselle@velco.com
- By phone: (802) 353-9346



2021 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan

DRAFT

April 12, 2021

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1 Highlights

Peak demand is forecast to grow due to the electrification of heating and transportation

Except for a very a short period of time of flat load, it is expected that summer and winter peak loads will grow at a faster rate compared to previous forecasts, mainly due to the electrification of transportation and heating. Below are the load forecasts studied in the plan. Three scenarios were developed to cover the range of possible outcomes, recognizing that long-term forecasting can be uncertain, particularly since future load growth is greatly influenced by public policy that is difficult to predict. The medium forecasts represent the expected uptick in the adoption of electric vehicles and cold-climate heat pumps. The low forecasts represent a lower growth rate. The high load forecasts represent a much higher adoption rate of electric vehicles and cold-climate heat pumps, which would be on track to meet the Vermont 90% total renewable energy goal by 2050. These forecasts also reflect the effects of energy efficiency and the fact that solar PV generation does not produce any energy at the summer and winter peak hours due to the timing of peak after dark.

	Low forecast scenario		Medium forecast scenario		High forecast scenario		All-time peak (year)	Historical 5-yr average
Season	2030	2040	2030	2040	2030	2040		
Summer	1071 MW	1185 MW	1119 MW	1294 MW	1189 MW	1430 MW	1118 MW (2006)	950 MW
Winter	1135 MW	1292 MW	1219 MW	1499 MW	1342 MW	1774 MW	1086 MW (2004/05)	970 MW

Vermont has experienced high load growth in the past, but historical peak load growth has not been as high as that shown in the winter high load forecast. In the medium forecasts, the summer and winter growth rates are 1.3% and 2.1%, respectively. In the high forecasts, the summer and winter growth rates are 1.9% and 3.0%, respectively. The highest historical growth rate occurred from 1993 to 2006, where the summer peak load increased from 818.9 MW to 1118 MW, a 2.42% growth rate over a 13-year period. In the first 8 years of that period, the growth was closer 2.6%. If we compare the total load increase over a thirteen-year period, loads are forecast to grow by 500 MW in the winter high forecast scenario compared to 300 MW in the historical summer growth period. While this level of load growth is unprecedented, we can serve or manage that load successfully provided we coordinate our planning efforts and implement the preferred solutions in a timely manner.

The transmission system has sufficient capacity to serve expected future demand for the first ten years of the twenty-year planning horizon.

VELCO analyzed the system using a methodology consistent with regional and federal standards. In very simple terms, the electric grid is required to be designed to serve the highest demand during any hour, under stressed conditions and unplanned equipment failures. Deficiencies are identified when the performance of the system falls short of the requirements. Some transmission facilities were negatively affected due to increased loads, but these concerns were addressed by re-adjusting electric power flows from New York, without exceeding the capacity of the New York system. As the Vermont peak demand continues to grow, and if non-transmission alternatives are not utilized, we anticipate that these flow adjustments will no longer be effective, and grid reinforcement will be required.

At the predominantly bulk level, which consists of delivery points to the distribution utility subsystems, analysis of the medium forecast identified several conditions where transformers and subtransmission lines would need to be disconnected to mitigate local concerns caused by transmission outages. In some cases, these operating actions resulted in load shedding less than the threshold that would allow regional funding of a transmission project based on current New England system planning rules. VELCO will discuss the need to address some of the most severe deficiencies with the distribution utilities. In some cases, local funding may be appropriate and necessary on the basis of unacceptable risk.

At the subsystem level, the analysis flagged several locations requiring distribution utility review, which will determine whether grid reinforcements are necessary. This determination will depend on utility specific criteria and the implementation of non-wires alternatives.

Load management is necessary to serve high electrification loads consistent with Vermont's total energy goals in the twenty-year planning horizon.

Since it was expected that the system would fail to meet reliability criteria in the 20-year horizon under the high load forecast, analysis of this scenario was conducted assuming that 75 percent of the EV load could be disconnected for a number of hours during peak periods, per distribution utility input. With this non-transmission alternative maintaining winter loads below 1470 MW and summer loads below 1210 MW, significant transmission upgrades were successfully eliminated. Load management will be necessary, and can be effective if properly designed. These measures will continue to include direct utility control of some loads, as with EV load disconnection. Historical data suggest that reconnecting EV load can result in very high load levels due to a phenomenon called snapback effect or cold load pickup. This suggests that static rate design may not be the right approach going forward. It may also be necessary to utilize a hybrid solution involving storage, load shifting, grid reinforcements, and other measures.

Careful coordinated state wide planning is required to successfully integrate future distributed generation and storage without significant grid reinforcements

Vermont public policies have been very successful at encouraging investment in small-scale distributed generation, which has been primarily solar PV. Based on data provided by the distribution utilities to ISO-NE, 400 MW of solar PV has been installed as of December 2020. This is in addition to approximately 63 MW of other distributed generation (DG) technologies. The proliferation of DG has started to stress parts of the system, and has contributed to curtailment of larger renewable generators that are controllable by ISO-NE as the administrator of the markets. Our analyses have found that transmission capacity can be exceeded if DG continues to be deployed in the same manner as today. Currently, DG projects are reviewed on a project-by-project basis without regard to transmission system impacts. If solar PV continues to be deployed without regard to transmission system capacity, solar PV growth contemplated as part of the current Vermont renewable energy standard (RES) and amounts beyond current targets will stress the transmission to the point of causing additional curtailment of ISO-NE controlled generation plants, or necessitate significant locally-funded transmission upgrades. However, several options exist to mitigate these transmission concerns.

- DG deployment can be optimized in such a way as to decelerate DG installations in areas where transmission capacity is limited. The optimized geographical distribution is illustrated on page

43, and it shows that transmission constraints can be minimized and significant transmission upgrades avoided by installing DG without exceeding any of the zonal limits shown on page 43.

- Vermont can also elect to curtail generation, but the financial and technical challenges need to be understood and addressed. Again, thoughtful siting of DG, following the optimized DG distribution map, will minimize curtailment events.
- Storage is a solution category that includes devices or processes that store energy in one form during times of excessive energy production and later release that energy. If properly designed, operated and located, storage is helpful at minimizing system constraints caused by excess generation at certain times of the day.

Location matters just as much for storage as it does for generation and load. The ideal location for storage to address excessive DG concerns is at a DG plant, in the same way that a DG plant is better located at a load site. The farther the storage is from a constraint, the less effective it will be in addressing it. In fact, if not operated optimally, storage could negatively affect the transmission system in similar ways to excessive DG depending on its location. For example, if storage is located south of a north to south constraint, the concerns will be aggravated during the charging cycle of the battery, even if the energy absorption mitigates a local issue. Given this concern, it may be that the operational limitations that would be placed upon a hypothetical storage installation may make the project undesirable to pursue. Studies should be conducted to evaluate system impacts of storage projects, as is done for DG and large loads. Storage solutions can be costly, and often require a stacking of economic benefits to remain an attractive option. In Vermont, these benefits may fall across a wide range of stakeholders, creating an additional barrier to the cost-benefit analysis and overall funding viability of these projects.

Transmission will continue to be essential as we increase clean energy consumption and production

Traditionally, transmission has served to connect large generation plants to distant load centers where energy is consumed. In an increasingly decentralized electric grid, transmission's role is as critical today because the new distributed generation resources are intermittent, weather dependent, and out of alignment with daily peak demand. Distributed generation (DG) is overwhelmingly solar PV, which typically produces energy in the middle of the day from 7AM to 7PM. Because of this generation pattern, the Vermont summer peak demand has moved after dark, and there is no incremental benefit from additional solar PV with respect to serving peak demand if solar PV is not paired with storage designed to provide a significant duration of energy. On cloudy days, or when covered with snow during several days in the winter, solar PV production is very low. On the energy consumption side, the electrification of heating and transportation is increasing demand early in the morning and early in the evening, which does not align with solar PV production. The result of this mismatch is a reliance on out-of-state resources and the transmission system, which imports the energy. To date, Vermont has added more than 400 MW of solar PV generation, which increases the total amount of in-state generation to nearly 100 percent of the Vermont peak demand. Even with this large amount of generation, Vermont imports energy 100 percent of the time. In 2020, where loads were unusually low due to Covid-19 effects, imports were as low as about 15 MW in April, and as high as about 855 MW in July. As solar PV continues to be added to meet the current renewable energy target of 10% of energy sales, Vermont will eventually export energy for a few hours during springtime. In effect, the rest of New England will serve as storage for the excess Vermont solar PV energy by way of the transmission system. Transmission is the means by which Vermont imports energy from neighboring states or will export energy during springtime. In essence, Vermont's environmental sustainability goals are enabled by a reliable transmission system.

Coordinate planning is needed to fulfill the requirements of current Vermont statutes and policies

In this plan, we have recommended load management, which is sometimes referred to as load flexibility. Storage clearly has a role to play if designed, operated and located properly, and if cost challenges are addressed. We have also recommended that DG and other distributed resources, such as storage, be properly located to not exacerbate or create transmission constraints. Currently, there is no entity or group tasked to design and implement these solutions. Without additional collaboration and continued innovation, Vermont's electric grid will not be able to fulfill the requirements of current state statutes and policies.

Informational Only
VSPC Analysis

2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan Update



Vermont System Planning
Committee
April 21, 2021

Agenda

- Long-Range Transmission Plan Summary
- Utility Scale Storage Hosting Capacity
- Burlington Net Zero Energy Plan
- Generation Retirement
- Time Series Power Flow

Long-Range Transmission Plan Summary

- Load growth due to EVs and heat pumps (no growth within ten years in the 2015 and 2018 plans)
 - High growth will require load management to avoid transmission
- No load related transmission deficiencies in first 10 years
- Diversity necessary to support continued solar PV growth
 - Storage
 - Grid support from inverters
 - Grid upgrades
 - Load management
 - Curtailment
 - Statewide coordinated planning
- Vermont will continue to depend on transmission
- Collaboration and innovation needed to achieve renewable goals

3



Utility Scale Storage Hosting Capacity

- Storage located at each of VELCO substations
- Simulates broad effects of storage
 - Consideration of charging and discharging
 - Consideration of proximity to load/generation pockets

Note: This analysis examined batteries charging/discharging at the most likely time frames (i.e. high gen, or high load). There was no analysis completed to examine impacts away from a daily peak in load or generation.

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- Location matters for large scale storage
 - Poor siting could exacerbate existing constraints
 - Should be sited close to source of generation or load causing constraints
- High generation and low load scenario is most limiting
 - Even with excessive generation, storage unit could exacerbate issues when located on the wrong side of a constraint
- VELCO must maintain system reliability
 - A poorly sited storage project may become uneconomical when necessarily curtailed during specific times for the purpose of maintaining reliability

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Burlington Net Zero Energy Plan

- Summary of plan
 - Source entire energy supply from renewables (including heating and transportation)
 - Utilize electrification and alternate fuels
 - Scenarios include completion by 2030 and 2040
- Winter peak load impact
 - 2040 scenario peak loads comparable to LRTP (no problems observed)
 - 2030 scenario peak loads exceed LRTP forecasts
 - NZE Plan assumes peak will occur at 11 pm, in contrast to LRTP assumption of 6 pm
 - Implications for peak load management programs

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- Assess impact of retirement of thermal units
 - Older diesel and oil peaking units
 - Could be retired due to age and/or economics
 - Same assumptions and scenarios of base analysis
- Present usage of units
 - Called on by ISO-NE during capacity events or other high demand periods
 - Dispatched by Vermont system operators
 - Provide source of power during planned facility outages
 - Prevent adverse impacts of contingencies under stressed conditions

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Generation Retirement (cont.)

- Additional and accelerated impacts pre-2030
 - Subtransmission
 - Several Montpelier area thermal and voltage issues
 - Burlington area thermal issue
 - Transmission
 - Multiple transformer thermal issues
 - Multiple transmission line thermal issues

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Time Series Power Flow - Description

- First of its kind for transmission
 - Provides counter-factual look at system across time
 - Performs 8760 offline power flow simulations
 - Close collaboration with UVM and EGA for 3+ years
- Relies on historical weather and load data
 - 3 km weather granularity for renewable generators
 - Presently based on 2017 data
- Expanding capabilities
 - Vary load and generation hour to hour
 - Frequency and duration of issues for contingencies
 - Plan to incorporate load management

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Time Series Power Flow - Inputs

- 2030 expected forecast peaks
 - 1072 MW summer
 - 1180 MW winter
- 950 MW of behind-the-meter solar PV
 - Same geographical solar distribution as today
- Tie flows regulated
 - F206 to NH: 0 to 200 MW
 - PV20 to NY: 0 to 120 MW
 - K7 to NY: -35 to 35 MW

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Time Series Power Flow - Results

- Annual and daily peak remains after dark
 - 8 pm in summer, 6 pm in winter
 - Some daily spring peaks in morning, same as today
- Continued dependence on transmission
 - Import up to 1025 MW
 - Export up to 325 MW
- Subtransmission low voltage

Location	Total hrs.	# of events	Avg. duration	Max duration
Stowe	4743	679	7	96
Morrisville	3614	746	5	96
Blissville	1477	434	3.5	11
Websterville	144	56	2.5	6

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Time Series Power Flow - Results (cont.)

- Subtransmission thermal overloads

Location	Total hrs.	# of events	Avg. duration	Max duration
McNeil – McNeil Tap	691	70	10	17
E. Arlington – Manchester	423	98	4.5	16
Websterville – S. Barre	402	145	3	8
Maple Ave – Charlestown	394	76	5	11
Mountainview – Berlin	313	124	2.5	7

- Transmission/transformer thermal overloads

Location	Total hrs.	# of events	Avg. duration	Max duration
Sand Bar – Essex	128	70	2	7
Vernon Road Transformer	16	16	2.5	4

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MEMO

DATE: May 3, 2021
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Nominating Committee
RE: Nominations for FY22 Officers and Committee Members

CVRPC's Bylaws task the Nominating Committee with nominating:

1. A slate of Officers and At-Large members of the Executive Committee, with an initial proposed slate presented at the April regular meeting and a final slate presented at the May regular meeting; and
2. A slate of nominees for committees and appointees to be presented at the May meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

This memo presents the Nominating Committee's final slate of candidates for Officers and members of committees for FY22 (starting July 1, 2021). In preparing this slate, the Nominating Committee has followed its adopted Rules of Procedure and Guidelines, including considerations such as the best interest of the Commission, Commissioner interests, and committee balance.

Commissioners may nominate additional candidates from the floor at the May meeting, at which time nominations will be closed and those nominations added to the slate for a balloted election.

The slates identified by the Nominating Committee are:

Executive Committee

Chair – Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury	At-Large – Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield
Vice Chair – Jerry D'Amico, Roxbury	At-Large – Michael Gray, Woodbury
Secretary/Treasurer – Janet Shatney, Barre City	At-Large – Lee Cattaneo, Orange
	At-Large – Marcella Dent, Montpelier

Project Review Committee (3 year terms ending FY25)

Bob Wernecke, Berlin

Bill Arrand, Worcester – Alternate

Project Review Committee members with unexpired terms are: Janet Shatney, Barre City (FY24), Peter Carbee, Washington (FY23), Lee Cattaneo, Orange (FY23), and John Brabant, Calais (FY24)

Regional Plan Committee

Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield

Russ Bowen, Fayston

Dara Torre, Moretown

Karla Nuissl, Berlin (Alt)

Byron Atwood, Barre Town

Municipal Plan Review Committee

Bill Arrand, Worcester

Jan Ohlsson, Calais (Alt)

Ron Krauth, Middlesex

Joyce Manchester, Moretown (Alt)

Peter Carbee, Washington

Brownfields Advisory Committee (2 year terms ending FY24)

Ron Krauth, Middlesex

Heather Greenfield, Barre City (Alt)

Paula Emery, Plainfield

Peter Carbee, Washington – Alternate

George Clain, Barre Town (Alt)

Clean Water Advisory Committee (2 year terms ending FY24)

The Clean Water Advisory Committee includes RPC members, municipal members and stakeholder representatives with staggered terms appointed by the Board. The proposed slate is:

CVRPC members:

Amy Hornblas, Cabot

Rich Turner, Williamstown - Alternate

Municipal members:

Larry Becker, Middlesex Conservation Commission

Joyce Manchester, Moretown TAC Representative

CVRPC members with unexpired terms are: Ron Krauth, Middlesex (FY23) and John Brabant, Calais (FY23). Municipal members with unexpired terms are: Dona Bate, Montpelier City Council, Russ Barrett, Northfield Conservation Commission, and John Hoogenboom, Moretown Selectboard (FY23).

Commission Appointments to Other Organizations

Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies (usually the CVRPC Chair) – Steve Lotspeich

Vermont Economic Progress Council (usually the ED) – Bonnie Waninger

Green Mountain Transit (usually the ED or Transportation Planner) – Bonnie Waninger, Christian Meyer – Alternate

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
April 13, 2021

Commissioners:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary/Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>		Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		George Clain, Alt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	VACANT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>		J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Zach Maia

Guests: Jamie Stewart, Central VT Economic Development Corporation; Ken Jones, VT Dept. of Economic Development

Call to Order

Chair Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Hill-Eubanks noted the speaker from CVEDC was not available yet, so moved on to Nominating Committee Report to be followed by CVEDC.

Public Comments

None.

Nominations Committee Report

J. Potter provided an overview regarding the memorandum in the packet and the charge per the Bylaws

1 of the Nominating Committee. She presented the draft slate of candidates for officers which proposes
2 Steve Lotspeich for Chair, Gerry D'Amico for Vice-Chair, Janet Shatney for Secretary/Treasurer, and at-
3 large members of Laura Hill-Eubanks, Michael Gray, Lee Cattaneo, and Marcella Dent. It was noted that
4 nominations from the floor will be accepted at the next Board meeting prior to a paper ballot being
5 mailed to Board members for elections.
6

7 **Central VT Economic Development Corporation Update**

8 Jamie Stewart, Central VT Economic Development Corporation provided a brief update regarding the
9 business community as they continue to address COVID factors and work on a Community Economic
10 Development Strategy. He noted that they are finding a shortage of workforce a critical issue. There is
11 some concern that some of the workforce may never return. CVEDC is hearing from businesses that are
12 looking to reduce their footprint. He suggested that RPCs should be considering what kind of work they
13 can do to support towns when office space may not be in demand as a result of remote work. He also
14 noted that people coming into Vermont from cities due to the safer environment has had an impact on
15 the real estate market, stating prices in the Mad River Valley have seen appreciation between 100-200%
16 pre-COVID. This will mean that going forward a large issue resulting from the pandemic will be an
17 increased need for the development of work force housing. He noted they are watching for what long-
18 term impacts COVID will have on our communities, and what we will need to start doing now to prepare
19 for that fallout and how we can increase the work force.
20

21 The floor was opened to questions. There was discussion regarding what extent not having children in
22 school and child care throughout the pandemic is having on the workforce and if it will reappear once
23 this is addressed. It was noted that there is a good understanding of the need to expand and improve
24 quality of day care throughout the state as well as federally. Let's Grow Kids and Regional Development
25 Corporations statewide are collaborating on a three-year plan of a much more robust day care system
26 with public sector support.
27

28 Also discussed was the status of industrial parks in the region. Stewart noted they are not seeing a
29 significant amount of industrial space vacant. What is available tend to be small options. He also noted
30 that construction costs have significantly increased and will likely put a damper on commercial
31 development, resulting in a high demand on existing spaces.
32

33 There was discussion on broadband and its critical need for schools as well as cell phone and internet
34 service being critical to businesses coming into the state. Stewart noted there will be a focus on
35 Communications Union Districts being funded and coverage will build out from there, but funds are not
36 likely going to go to the large carriers. Ken Jones of CVFiber noted that currently Consolidated
37 Communications is installing cable in areas where Comcast has service to compete. He noted that
38 CVFiber will be partnering with Washington Electric to drop connections from their lines to homes in
39 areas that are not served and are projecting service for the Washington Electric area with fiber by the
40 end of 2024.
41

42 **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

43 Zach Maia provided a brief overview of the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic
44 Development Strategy (CEDS). A CEDS is a planning process and document approved by the US

1 Economic Development Administration. It is to identify strengths and weaknesses in a region and
2 engage a diverse set of stakeholders to generate good jobs, diversify the economy, and spur economic
3 growth. Implementation of a plan provides opportunity for regional organizations and municipalities to
4 access federal funding if projects align with priorities within the CEDS.
5

6 Maia described the West Central Vermont CEDS region as 4 regional planning commissions and
7 economic development corporations- Central Vermont, Rutland, Addison, and Chittenden. To date they
8 have formed a Strategy Committee to guide the development of the planning process. They are
9 compiling background data, conducting region analyses including a regional profile and SWOTs
10 (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), and determining COVID's impact on the economy.
11 All this work will evolve into stakeholder engagement this summer (businesses, municipalities,
12 community members, etc.). The work will be summarized into a draft CEDS document to enable access
13 the federal funding.
14

15 **COVID-19 and the Vermont Economy**

16 Ken Jones, VT Dept. of Economic Development, provided an analysis of the COVID impact on the
17 regional economy. Jones provided a presentation on the Washington County economy and COVID. He
18 noted that Washington County has a strong relationship to Chittenden County as there is a lot of
19 commuter movement between the two counties. What happens outside of Washington County is as
20 important as what happens within the county itself. He also noted that the national economy drives
21 many of the variables in the Vermont economy, i.e. consumer confidence, industrial productivity and
22 demand, cost of and access to capital, COVID impacts and recovery programs.
23

24 Jones provided details about the county's overall GDP, Wages, Income, Property Value and Population
25 and how Washington County compares to the entire state. Additional detail was provided on the impact
26 of COVID in 2020 to lodging/accommodations, retail sales, construction, manufacturing, and household
27 incomes.
28

29 It was noted that housing sales to out of state buyers has accelerated significantly (approximately \$600
30 million of additional money coming into the state from out of state purchases) than prior to 2020. This
31 makes it very difficult for Vermonters to compete in the housing market.
32

33 Jones discussed recovery programs, which include water and wastewater, broadband, housing, capital
34 projects, outdoor recreation, education, municipal support as well as additional business support. It was
35 noted there is going to be a significant investment in many of our economic sectors which will keep us
36 very busy and hopefully establish a strong foundation for recovery.
37

38 The takeaway from this presentation is that general impacts are not negative, but the general impacts
39 do not tell the stories of individuals and/or businesses that were harmed. Emerging from the pandemic
40 has huge uncertainties specifically related to remote work, retail sales shifts, and the federal deficit.
41

42 The floor was opened to questions. Discussed was the statistic of no significant lost wages in
43 Washington County. It was suggested that there is a concentration of business sectors that did not see a
44 significant impact from COVID in the county. There was also additional discussion of the potential tax

1 implications of property values when neighboring properties are being sold at high rates. Jones advised
2 that the equalized grand list should help to address this.

3
4 There was question about the employees who have dropped out of the work force and expectations
5 regarding their return. Jones noted the challenge in getting childcare is keeping people from re-entering
6 the work force; as is fear of COVID. He also noted the unemployment insurance (UI) benefit is
7 significant right now. People are receiving more money on UI than when they were working. It was also
8 suggested that retirements may also be accelerated as a result of COVID. Based on all these factors, the
9 recovery of the workforce may not be complete.

10
11 There was discussion regarding certain sectors of economy and women being hit harder during the
12 pandemic. It was noted there has been an increase in number of families seeking assistance due to
13 COVID. Hope was expressed that the state is paying attention to ensure individuals who were harmed
14 are getting the assistance that they need.

15
16 Jones was asked whether he sees a negative side to funding of recovery programs through federal
17 deficit. He noted what he has heard is that at some point there will be a reckoning of the cost of capital,
18 but economists have been saying this for decades. During the last 16 months there have been
19 unprecedented levels of deficit spending and at some point there will be a reckoning, which will
20 hopefully be delayed for a while.

21 22 **Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2021**

23 *R. Turner moved to approve the minutes as written; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*
24

25 **Reports**

26 Hill-Eubanks asked staff if they had anything to highlight. Waninger advised Berlin was granted its new
27 Town Center designation which includes a number of conditions. She will provide a summary in the next
28 Board meeting packet.

29
30 She also advised that staff is calling all municipalities to talk about American Rescue Plan (ARPA) as
31 municipalities will be eligible for federal recovery money. She also noted an email has gone out to
32 Selectboards with the estimates of the amount of money to be received.

33
34 Waninger announced that Zach Maia has tendered his resignation. Maia thanked the Board and
35 conveyed his appreciation to the towns represented. He advised he will be a Development Planner with
36 the Town of Colchester. It was noted that we will be very sad to see him go and will be advertising the
37 position shortly. Hill-Eubanks thanked Maia for his work and wished him good luck.

38 39 **Municipal Updates**

40 Hill-Eubanks opened the floor to members to share information from their towns.

41
42 Clain advised of a Barre Town experience related to a solar site proposed by Norwich Solar in which the
43 final project was ultimately different from what was proposed to the town in their 45-day Notice. It was
44 noted the map presented to Public Utilities Commission was a completely different map. This caused

1 concern in transparency of the process. He wanted to alert all municipalities to follow these types of
2 projects through to completion to ensure they are within the bounds as presented. Waninger provided
3 some background on preferred sites and noted that these types of projects should be monitored
4 throughout the development process. It was confirmed that the project involved was the Grandview
5 Terrace site in Barre Town, completed in 2020. Atchinson of Plainfield advised he was aware of a
6 project that Twinfield Union and Danville School District had on Route 14 South and was pleased it was
7 not the project that was at issue.

8
9 **Adjournment**

10 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm; B. Atchison seconded. Motion carried.*

11
12 Respectfully submitted,
13 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Provides follow-up to last month's presentation



The COVID-19 Crisis and Vermont Women

A data dashboard document tracking the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on women and girls in Vermont.

Last updated: April 5, 2021

1

WOMEN, WORK, & COVID-19

Essential work and inequities in employment during the COVID-19 crisis.

2

COVID-19 & HEALTH DISPARITIES

A disproportionate number of women in Vermont are testing positive for COVID.

3

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES & COVID-19

Economic vulnerability and instability during the pandemic.

4

ONGOING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & COVID-19

Continuous inequities in social and family settings for Vermont women.



WOMEN, WORK, & COVID-19

91%



% of **nurses** in Vermont who are women

82%



% of **other health care workers** in Vermont who are women

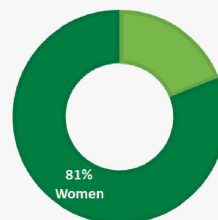
82%



% of **personal care workers**, including child care professionals, in Vermont who are women

WHY A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT?

TIPPED WAGE WORKERS IN VERMONT



By many measures, women are more likely to have their work impacted by the pandemic in Vermont, and are more likely to be delivering services deemed "essential" during this time. Women make up 81% of the state's tipped wage earners, the highest rate in the country.

Women in Vermont are more likely than men to be in part-time positions and make up a disproportionate share of those earning less than \$11 an hour. This makes them less likely to qualify for benefits like paid leave or health insurance.

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES & COVID-19

Nationally, women business-owners are more likely to own smaller businesses than their male counterparts. Women-run businesses are also more likely to be in the service sector, such as health, education, personal, or retail services, all business-types likely to be impacted by the current economic climate.

Minority business-owners also have been found to be disproportionately represented in "higher-risk" industries during this time, nationally.

Despite these challenges, Vermont women are continuing to strive towards business-ownership and success. 30% of the Center for Women and Enterprise Vermont's inquiries during this time have been women wanting to start their own businesses. There has been a doubling since April in CWE Vermont's inquiries for programming about early-stage business planning and support.

COVID-19 & HEALTH DISPARITIES

According to the Vermont Department of Health, women in Vermont make up a higher number of those being tested and vaccinated, while men and women have similar case rates.

More **females** are tested than **males** for COVID-19.



55% of people tested for COVID-19 are **female**.



45% of people tested for COVID-19 are **male**.

Vermont Department of Health

PERCENT OF THE STATEWIDE POPULATION BY SEX THAT HAS RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE OF THE VACCINE

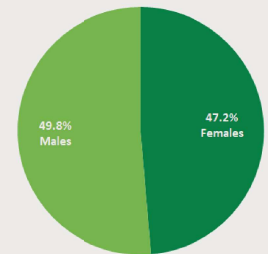


Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



Vermont Department of Health

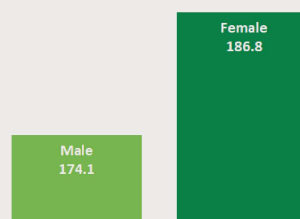
COVID-19 DEATHS IN VERMONT BY GENDER



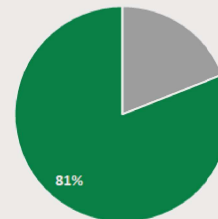
3

COVID-19 & HEALTH DISPARITIES

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND URGENT CARE VISIT RATES FOR COVID-LIKE ILLNESS VISITS ARE HIGHER FOR FEMALES COMPARED TO MALES
Rates per 10,000 emergency department and urgent care visits

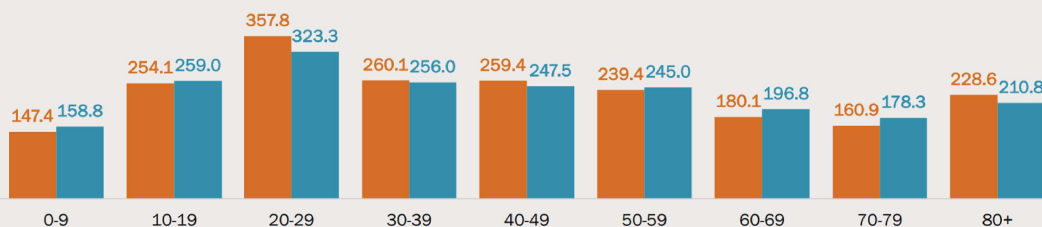


81% of HEALTH CARE WORKERS WITH COVID-19 ARE FEMALE



There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

Rates of COVID-19 by Age Group for **Females** and **Males** per 10,000 Vermonters

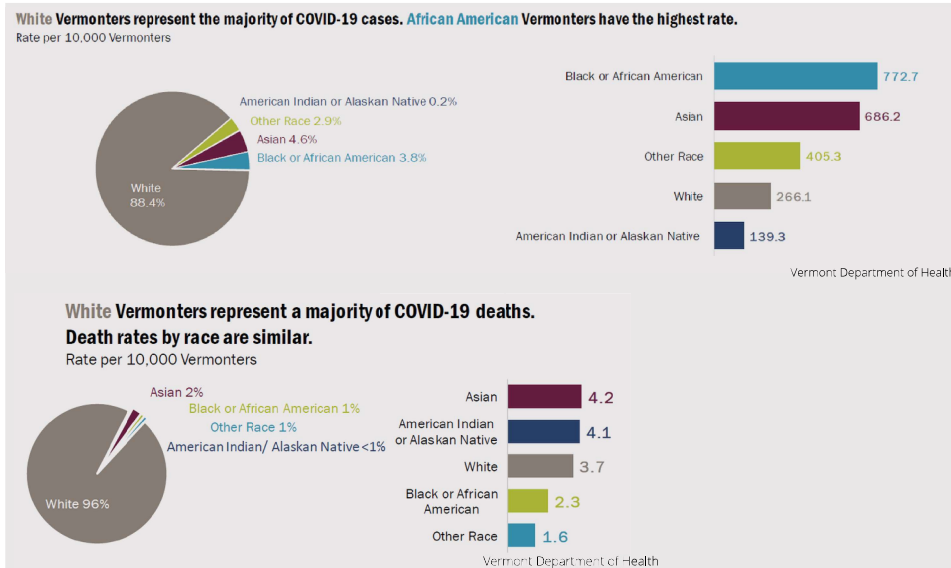


Vermont Department of Health

4

COVID-19 & HEALTH DISPARITIES

According to the Vermont Department of Health, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) Vermonters represent 6% of the State's population but 11.8% of COVID-19 cases. Rates of COVID-19 are two times higher for BIPOC compared with non-Hispanic residents. BIPOC Vermonters with COVID-19 have significantly higher hospitalization and chronic disease rates, relative to white non-Hispanic people with COVID-19. The hospitalization rate is 9 per 10,000 BIPOC Vermonters, which is significantly higher than the white non-Hispanic rate (5.9).



RACIAL AND ETHNIC INEQUITIES

In Vermont, 3.9% of positive cases in the state are found in Black or African American Vermonters; however, these individuals make up only 1.4% of the overall population.

Among BIPOC Vermonters, incidence rates are highest for Black or African Americans (772.7), followed by Asians (686.2), and other races (405.3), which includes people who identify as more than one race, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. The rate among Hispanic people is 372.7.

All rates are presented as per 10,000 persons.

5

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES & COVID-19

Women in Vermont are more at risk of being in, or falling into, poverty. The economic downturn associated with the pandemic makes women even more vulnerable to financial instability. With higher rates of poverty, a persistent wage gap, and new and growing concerns around unemployment, the current economic crisis is revealing underlying financial insecurity for women in our communities.

47.1%

of Vermont households headed by women with minor children under five years old are in poverty, whereas 14% of male headed households with children under five are in poverty

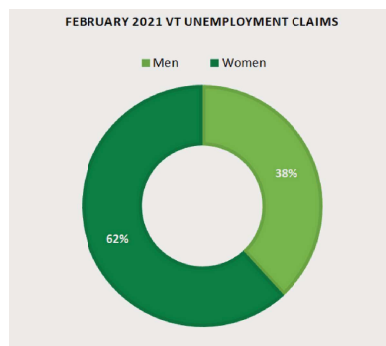
26.9%

of black women in Vermont are living in poverty. This is over twice the rate of white women in poverty, and higher than the national average for black women

UNEMPLOYMENT & COVID-19

Data on unemployment claims from the U.S. Department of Labor suggests that Vermont women are facing unemployment during this time at higher rates than men.

In February, 2021, 61.8% of claims were attributed to women, while 38.2% were attributed to men. Over 7,400 Vermont women filed for unemployment in February. This can be compared to the same period in February 2020, during which women filed only 1,170 claims; **marking more than a 535% increase for the same period in 2020.**



THE WAGE GAP IN VERMONT

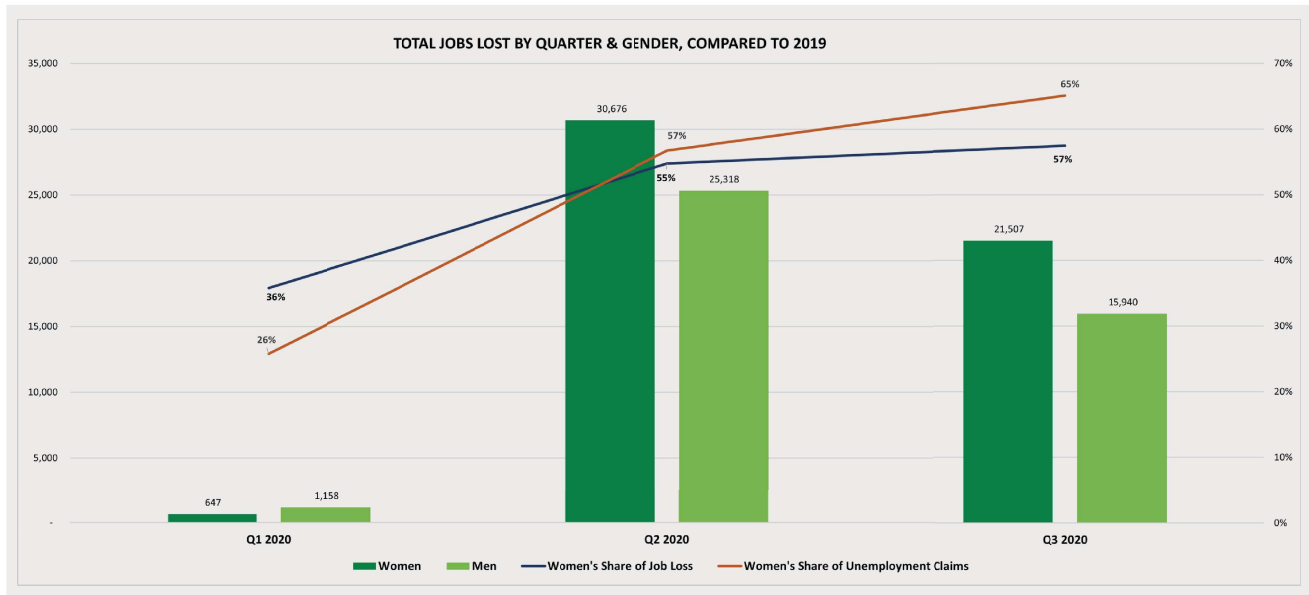
Median Annual Income by Gender in Vermont



6

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES & COVID-19

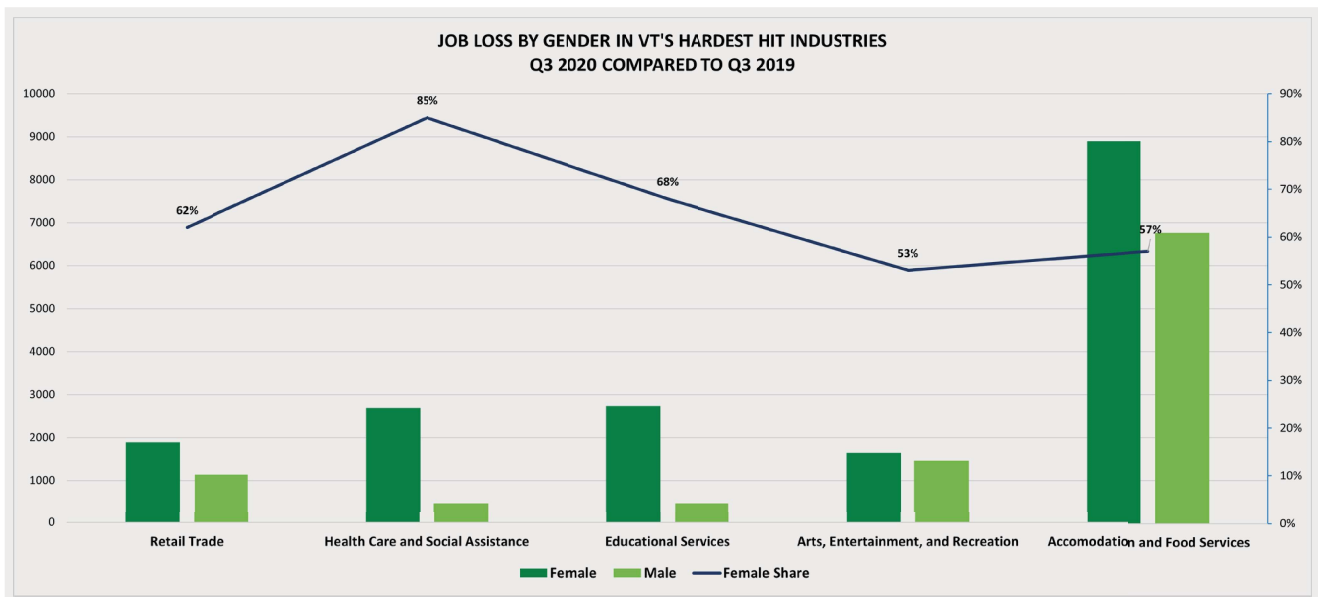
In the second quarter of 2020, workers held 55,994 fewer jobs than they did in the second quarter of 2019. 55% of the jobs lost were held by women, and 57% of unemployment claims were filed by women. In the third quarter of 2020, workers held 37,447 fewer jobs than in the third quarter of 2019, and 57% of the jobs lost were held by women, while 65% of unemployment claims were filed by women.



7

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES & COVID-19

During the third quarter of 2020, women previously held a majority of the jobs lost in each of Vermont's five hardest hit industries. Women previously held 85% of the jobs lost in the health care and social assistance industry.



8

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES & COVID-19

CHILD CARE

79%

of those polled thought “high-quality, affordable childcare” is either “essential” or “very important” for the state’s ability “to reopen the economy and get people back to work.”



78%

of those polled favored increasing state funding to ensure “there are enough affordable, high-quality childcare programs in Vermont for children under age five.”



December 2020 poll results of 500 Vermonters
conducted by Hart Research Associates and commissioned by Let’s Grow Kids

9

ONGOING SOCIAL INEQUITIES, LIVING CONDITIONS, & COVID-19

43.9%

of separated women in Vermont live with minor children, compared to 21.6% of separated men.

4X

Nationally, women are four times more likely than men to take time off from work when children are sick.

16

5 incarcerated individuals and 11 staff members of the women’s prison in Vermont, CRCF have tested positive for COVID-19.

CAREGIVING

DUE TO ONGOING INEQUITIES AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS, WOMEN PERFORM MORE DOMESTIC AND CAREGIVING WORK

- An April 2020 nationally-representative poll found that 45% of men reported doing the majority of work supporting children with remote learning, while only 3% of women agreed that their partners did the majority of this work.
- A 2020 study found that more than 70% of fathers think they are splitting household labor equally with their partner during Covid-19—but only 44% of mothers say the same.

SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE

DUE TO SOCIAL ISOLATION, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE ARE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS DURING THIS TIME

With a decrease in social networks and a lack of consistent visibility, intimate partner violence, sexual violence and family domestic violence are of heightened concern during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence reported that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, member programs answered 17,137 hotline calls, down from 18,921 during the previous year.

Among those helped were 1,526 individuals seeking services related to violence or abuse against a friend or family member, up from 1,327 during the previous year.

10

ONGOING SOCIAL INEQUITIES, LIVING CONDITIONS, & COVID-19

CHILD ABUSE

Intake calls and messages to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont's statewide Helpline jumped up 100% initially when COVID-19 hit, and remains one third higher than pre-pandemic levels. Because of lower incomes and likelihood children will live with them, women who are single parents call the Helpline even more than before the pandemic.



HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

Before COVID-19, 1 in 10 Vermonters were experiencing hunger or food insecurity, now it's 1 in 3, and not everyone is experiencing this equally:

People of color are 4 times likely than white Vermonters

Families with young children are 2 times more likely than those with no children

Women are 2 times more likely than men



11

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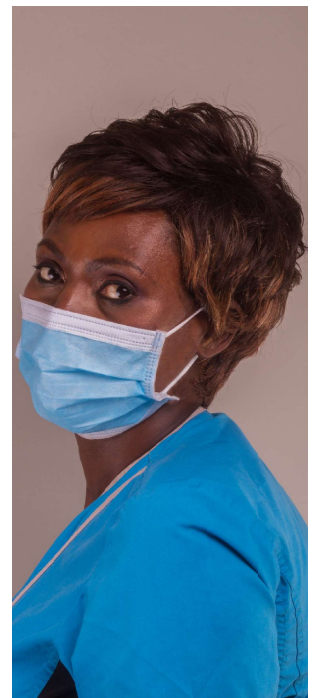
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