

**Vermont Public Service Department
Rate Design Initiative / Distributed Energy Resources Study**

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting #3

Zoom Meeting

(April 16, 2020 – 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM)

Opening and Review Project Objectives and Progress / Comments from Department /

Guidance and Direction on the Technology 9:00 – 9:15

LSAM Update 9:15 – 9:45

Panel Discussion #1 – Utility Planning for the Future and the State’s Objectives 9:45 – 10:45

The first panel will discuss the status of existing planning efforts of Vermont’s distribution utilities as viewed through the lens of recently completed integrated resource planning efforts and ongoing updates and likely future planning efforts. The focus of this discussion will be on grid readiness for integration of EVs, PV solar, flexible loads and storage, and building and hot water heating from heat pump technology.

- Scott Burnham (NewGen) – Moderator
- Jared Duval (Energy Action Network)
Jared will help frame the scope and scale of electrification efforts necessary to achieve state targets. EAN is fresh off the release of its annual report and will share some insights from their report.
- Josh Castonguay (GMP) – Urban and Rural Perspective
Josh will share insights from their Integrated Resource Planning efforts, especially in relation to electrification and the potential impacts on the distribution and subtransmission system.
- Cyril Brunner (VEC) – Rural Perspective
Cyril will pivot off of GMP to discuss the likely impacts of electrification on the distribution system from the standpoint of a rural utility system.
- Hantz Presume (VELCO) – Transmission Perspective
Hantz will address the potential implications of greater electrification on the bulk transmission system and ISO-NE reliability from EV and CCHP adoption.

Break 10:45 – 11:00

NewGen Presentation: LSAM Scenario Modeling 11:00 – 11:30

Lunch 11:30 – 12:30

NewGen Presentation: Strategic Rate Design 12:30 – 12:45

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Panel Discussion #2 – Solving the Implementation Challenges of Optional Rates, Rate Riders and Managed Charging

12:45 – 2:00

Vermont has a growing list of innovative rates. The purpose of this segment is to provide focus on the implementation challenges of slow adoption and poor responsiveness to advanced forms of pricing that are offered on an optional basis. The panel will highlight the problem and identify pathways that have worked elsewhere to both increase ratepayer participation, and their ability to actively manage loads. Potential solutions include innovations in marketing, automation, opt-out rates, and shadow pricing, to name a few.

- Scott Burnham (NewGen) – Moderator

- Freddy Hall (BED)

Freddy will share the experience of BED's experience with their off-peak EV rider and strategies underway to increase participation in the optional EV rate.

- Rick Weston (RAP)

Rick Weston will discuss the importance of automation and opt-out strategies for rate offerings of optional services.

- Mary Sprayregen (Oracle)

Mary Sprayregen will frame the research that has been performed into managing loads from the perspective of O-Power and Oracle. Mary will discuss how to get opt-in rates to scale, including where have residential time-varying rates worked and what elements made them effective? Mary will discuss the behavior science components in relation to opt-in rates. Policy considerations to consider include rate guarantees and the peak-to-off-peak price ratio. Segmentation of loads can also be used to influence behavior.

- Josh Bode (Demand-Side Analytics)

Josh Bode is active nationally and will share the insights and lessons from his travels and extensive experience in spurring adoption of advanced forms of pricing. Josh will discuss the impact of various outreach levers for enrolling customers on rates and the role of education and outreach on the effectiveness of opt-out rate implementation in New York and California.

- Graham Turk (GMP)

Graham will share GMP's experience with the eCharger program and the importance of reducing the upfront costs of customer adopting new rates or managed charging.

- Paul Hines (Packetized Energy, U. of Vermont)

Paul will discuss opportunities and challenges for electric rate design from the perspective of an aggregator/grid edge flexibility solutions provider. Specifically, he will describe some of the pitfalls that can come with simple rate structures, such as time of use rates, and talk about how flexible subscription rates can provide benefits for both consumers and utilities.

Wrap up and Next Steps

2:00 – 2:30