



DRAFT

## **McNeil Station Joint Ownership Operating Committee Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the McNeil station Joint Ownership Operating Committee convened at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025. Present; Darren Springer, BED, Doug Smith, GMP, Ken Nolan, VPPSA, Munir Kasti, BED, Betsy Lesnikoski, BED, Michael Harron, BED, Lincoln Sprague, BED, Fritz Howard, BED, and Ying Liu. On Teams, James Gibbons, BED. Others Present: Colleen Rouille, BED.

### **1. Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **2. Review of Joint Owner Operating Committee Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2025.**

There were no changes to the minutes. M. Kasti, BED, moved a motion to approve the Joint Owner meeting minutes for March 10, 2025; D. Springer, BED, seconded the motion, and it was approved by K. Nolan, VPPSA, and all members present.

### **3. Public Forum**

There were no members present from the public.

### **4. Summary of Operating and Generating Reports for February, March, April, and May 2025.**

M. Harron, BED, summarized the operating reports for the months of February, March, April and May 2025. In February 2025, McNeil produced 25,714 net MWH for a capacity factor of 76.5 percent. The plant operated for 88.7% of the total hours in February. No gas was burned in the McNeil boiler during the month of February. There were two reductions and limitations in February. There was a plugged exhaust system and a jammed feeder grate. This month at McNeil we conducted routine maintenance, preventative maintenance, and process improvement. A plugged exhaust system forced McNeil to run at a lower capacity for most of the month and a jammed feeder grate brought McNeil offline at the end of the month. Internal employees transferred into the Generation Technician and Generation Generalist positions. In March 2025, McNeil produced 10,132 net MWH for a capacity factor of 27.2 percent. The plant operated 38.1 percent of the total hours in March. There was 1,129.16 MCF of gas burned in the McNeil boiler during the month of March. There were six reductions and limitations that included a jammed feeder grate, a seized live bottom, jammed augers, a failed cooling tower fan, another jammed feeder grate and the planned yearly outage. This month at McNeil, we conducted some routine preventative maintenance, and process improvements. A new Director of Operations, Michael Harron, started this month.

In April 2025, McNeil produced 552 net MWH for a capacity factor of 1.5 percent. The plant operated for 2 percent of the total hours in April. There was 1,389.5 MCF gas burned in the McNeil boiler during the month of April. There were two reductions and limitations this month. One was a blown steam drum seal on startup and the other was the planned yearly outage. This month at McNeil, we had our planned outage. We performed significant maintenance on the precipitator, the feeder grates and the cyclone hoppers and performed preventative maintenance throughout the plant. A new Director of Engineering, Lincoln Sprague, started in April.

In May 2025, McNeil produced 13,684 net MWH for a capacity factor of 36.78 percent. The plant operated for 42.11 percent of the total hours in May. There was zero MCF gas burned in the McNeil boiler for startups during the month of May. There were two reductions and limitations which included the north cooling tower fan vibration and a cyclone repair. ISO New England has approved our fall outage for the dates of October 18 – November 9. D. Smith, GMP asked what the status of the grates were and M. Harron said after work was done things are running good with the grates. He also asked if McNeil could run at full load after the outage. M. Harron answered that we are currently in the position to run at 50 MWH throughout the summer. K. Nolan, VPPSA, asked if there were any concerns running throughout the summer. M. Harron, BED, said we are currently rebuilding precipitator fields and those are working good after making some small adjustments. There are some cooling tower timbers that need replacement as well. There are no major concerns at this point of operations. D. Springer, BED, asked if Mike, Lincoln, and Fritz could give a quick introduction since they are new. M. Mike Harron, Director of Generation Operations, said he is from the outside of North Boston. He went to school for graphic design and then went back to school at Mass. Maritime and has been sailing for the last eight years for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He has a passion for the generation side of things. Lincoln Sprague, Director of Generation Engineering and Maintenance, said he has been working for the past twelve years in Power Engineering and at Dynapower in Burlington for the past eight. He is an Electrical Engineer. He has a professional Engineering license in Vermont and a journeymen's Electrical license. He is working in the plant of current projects and equipment. Fritz Howard, Associate Generation Engineer, has been working as a Control Systems Engineer for the past couple of years since college. He can look at the controls issues at the plant and is learning about the other aspects of Engineering at the plant.

## **5. Plant Status Operating and Maintenance Concerns**

L. Sprague, BED, updated the Joint Owners saying that he has been working on a lot of the projects and details that M. Harron mentioned in his summary. He has been working and is focused on improving the airflow in the exhaust section of the plant. He will continue in the fall outage to replace the catalyst cubes in the RSCR section of the plant and the gas outlet that has air flow issues that limits the airflow and is limiting the capacity of the plant. There was a significant improvement by cleaning this out with a vacuum truck, but it will need to be addressed during the fall outage when the catalyst cubes are replaced for maximum airflow. He said he has a good crew working on the projects he is learning a lot from them to get as much knowledge as quick as he can.

## **6. Fuel Procurement Update.**

B. Lesnikoski, BED, updated the Joint Owners by saying that while the plant was offline this spring, to do railroad track repair at McNeil. Swanton has just finished their railroad track maintenance. She said that they are ready to have five trains a week and move the inventory from Swanton to Burlington to make sure the McNeil yard is full for the summer run. There is close to 60,000 tons total in inventory, 40,000 at McNeil and 20,000 in Swanton. The plan is to maintain five trains per week to keep the yard as full as possible. Suppliers are ramping up supply after the spring season and we are in a particularly good place with wood supply currently. D. Smith, GMP, asked about the health of the industry. B. Lesnikoski, BED, said that there is an industrywide, areawide concern about this with everyone. There is some talk about getting tech centers involved to get young people interested in the industry. From the McNeil perspective, the way we have been operating the plant currently, being off in the fall and spring, has allowed us to build inventory for the summer and winter runs during full load. From a supplier's perspective, they have a steady market year-round which makes them satisfied.

## **7. Financial Review.**

Y. Liu, BED, said that she would be reviewing the McNeil April 30, 2025, calendar year- to-date budget. The total operating expenses on the calendar year- to- date budget through April 30, 2025 were \$8,497,671. This was (\$1,558,092) under budget. Fuel expense had a favorable variance of \$408,277. Boiler Plant had a favorable variance of \$409,056. Electric Plant had a favorable variance of \$304,427. The favorable variances were due to the spring outage expenses captured in April and in May. Another reason is there were no plant assets retired in this calendar year. We will continue to monitor the budget for the fiscal and calendar years.

## **8. McNeil Operating Statement.**

Y. Liu, BED, presented the McNeil operating statement with McNeil estimated revenue and expense for the fiscal year to date through April 30, 2025. Also included is the calendar year-to-date through April 30, 2025. On April 30, 2025, fiscal year 2025-to-date numbers, the total generation megawatt hours were 173,568 compared to April 30, 2025, fiscal year 2024-to- date total generation megawatt hours of 167,612. The station generated 5,956 more megawatt hours in fiscal year 2025 compared to fiscal year 2024. In the April 30, 2025, fiscal year 2025-to-date numbers, the total estimated revenue was \$21,492,660 compared to \$13,046,269 in the April 30, 2024, fiscal year 2024-to-date numbers. The estimated revenue in fiscal year 2025 was up by \$8,446,392. The total fuel expenses were \$12,688,385 in the April 30, 2025, fiscal year 2025-to-date numbers compared to \$12,454,383 in the April 30, 2024, fiscal year 2024- to-date number. The fuel expense was up by \$234,002 in fiscal year 2025. The higher fuel expense was driven by the higher generation in the current fiscal year. The total other expenses including depreciation was \$9,802,667 on April 30, 2025, fiscal year 2025 -to-date number compared to \$9,136,357 in the April 30, 2024, fiscal year 2024 -to-date number. The higher amount was driven by higher steam expense including the stack inspection and repair, emissions and pollution testing and the higher chemical costs. The higher administrative costs were because of legal fees related to REC's and triannual engineering report. The estimated net loss on April 30, 2025, fiscal year 2025-to-date number was (\$998,392) compared to an estimated net loss of (\$8,544,472) on April 30, 2024, fiscal year 2024-to-date number. The estimated net loss decreased by (\$7,546,090) in fiscal year 2025 compared to fiscal year 2024.

In the April 30, 2025, calendar year-to-date numbers, McNeil generated 69,078 megawatt hours compared to 80,110 megawatt hours in the April 30, 2024, calendar year-to-date number. The total estimated revenue on April 30, 2025, calendar year-to-date number was \$11,840,433 compared to \$5,090,025 on April 30, 2024, calendar year-to-date number. The estimated revenue was \$6,750,407 more in calendar year 2025. In the April 30, 2025, calendar year-to-date numbers, the total fuel expense was \$4,990,549 compared to \$5,877,542 calendar year-to-date April 30, 2024, number. In the April 30, 2025, calendar year-to-date numbers, the total other expenses were \$4,093,185 compared to \$3,605,000 in the April 30, 2024, calendar year-to-date number. The higher amount in this calendar year was due to the outage being earlier than last year. April 30, 2025, calendar year-to-date estimated net income was \$2,756,699 compared to an estimated net loss of (\$4,392,516) on April 30, 2024, calendar year-to-date number. The increased energy revenue in calendar year 2025 was the driver of this gain.

#### **9. BED – G.M. Update.**

D. Springer, BED, updated the Joint Owners by thanking them for working with Burlington Electric on the site license items for the solar test center and the village hydroponics. He would like to arrange a visit after the next meeting so the Joint Owners can see the operation. He also wanted to touch on legislation that we know just moved in Connecticut. D. Springer, BED, said we have legal counsel in Connecticut that is reviewing that legislation and will give Burlington Electric an update soon. The summary that was issued by the Connecticut officials suggested that in reducing their renewable portfolio standard overall it would address some affordability challenges there. They changed qualifications for a few different resources including biomass. It suggested that facilities that have an energy contract by the enactment date, which is October of 2025, would have a facility that would remain eligible for Connecticut One through the duration of that period. We are looking to get a much better interpretation from the legal counsel. D. Springer, BED, said he would be happy to share those findings with the Joint Owners. J. Gibbons, BED, said that it could be a REC and energy contract that is required to be eligible. D. Springer, BED, also brought up that we have engaged Mid-South Engineering to analyze a woodchip dryer system for the McNeil plant. They will be onsite to give us a ballpark estimate for what the project might cost from a capital standpoint and what efficiency gains that might be available through that system.

#### **10. Other Business.**

There was no other business.

#### **11. Schedule for the Next Meeting.**

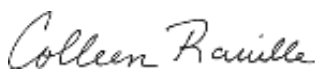
The next Joint Owner meeting is scheduled at the McNeil farmhouse on Monday September 8, 2025, at noon.

#### **12. Adjourn.**

M. Kasti, BED, moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

D. Springer, BED, seconded the motion and it was approved by D. Smith, GMP.

Respectfully Submitted,



Colleen Rouille

## Business Coordinator Generation