

Q.DPS.GMP.1-121. Has GMP done any community engagement specific to the design and development of this ZOI? If so, please describe, including which communities and/or community-based organizations were engaged and how. Please describe any plans to involve customers/communities/community-based organizations in additional design details/implementation.

A.DPS.GMP.1-121.

Storm restoration at GMP includes proactive and frequent outreach to town officials, emergency managers, and customers who may require electricity for life saving medical equipment. During outreach over the storms in late 2022 and early 2023, it became clear that customers and communities were unprepared for the impacts of climate change driven storms particularly with road blockages and other access challenges that came with these weather events. It is imperative to help these customers better understand how weather patterns are changing, how our restoration efforts work, and our plan to address the impacts of climate change from these storms.

GMP began a series of meetings focused on the hardest-hit areas from those storms, targeting town selectboards, regional planning commissions, town energy committees, and presenting at conferences focused on emergency preparedness. For examples of presentations at these meetings see Attachments GMP.DPS1.Q121(a)-(c).

We went to speak in-person whenever possible, and these meetings included our operations lead, the local district operations supervisor (OS), and the person who leads information to towns during storms.

These 30+ meetings enabled us to hear from leaders in towns and their constituents, and strengthened our resolve that the plan for our Zero Outages Initiative is not only prudent but critical to keep Vermonters safe in increasingly more severe and damaging storms. While towns are unique both geographically and infrastructure-wise, the zone approach of the ZOI applies equitably across all communities and can be tailored to individual town needs, i.e. critical infrastructure that could be included in a microgrid and serve as a warming shelter during emergencies.

The list below represents the community engagement that informed the ZOI design and plan:

- Windham Region Resiliency Project Meeting January 24, 2023

- Addison County Emergency Managers Meeting February 8, 2023
- Bethel Selectboard March 27th
- Bethel Energy Committee March 28th
- Wardsboro Community Meeting April 3rd
- Newfane Selectboard Meeting, April 3rd
- Brattleboro Emergency Managers, April 10th
- Chester Selectboard Meeting, April 17th
- Grafton Selectboard Meeting, April 17th
- Windsor Resiliency Zone Meeting, April 19th
- Dummerston Selectboard Meeting, April 19th
- Townshend Selectboard Meeting, April 25th
- Vermont Emergency Management, May 4th
- Jamaica Selectboard Meeting, May 8th
- VT Warn Conference, May 11th
- Chittenden Regional Planning Commission, May 17th
- Guilford Selectboard Meeting, May 22nd
- Mt Ascutney Regional Planning Commission, June 6th
- Rockingham/Bellows Falls/WRC Meeting on Resiliency Zones, June 19th
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission, June 28th
- Guilford meeting with school, Town officials on Resiliency Work and potential microgrid
- Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference, September 21st
- Presentation to Vermont League of Cities and Towns Town Fair, September 26-27
- Groton Town Selectboard, September 27th
- Franklin County Regional Emergency Managers Commission, September 28th
- Woodstock Town Manager meeting on ZOI, October 16th
- Wells Town Manager meeting on ZOI, October 18th
- Brandon Town officials meeting on RZ, October 23rd
- Brandon Energy Committee, November 2nd
- US EPA Vermont Power Resiliency Workshop for Vermont Water Utilities, November 7th
- Halifax Community Meeting, December 14th
- Whitingham Senior Meal, December 14th
- Upcoming: Town of Guilford

Person/s Responsible for Response: Josh Castonguay, Tiana Smith

Title of Person/s: VP, Chief Innovation and Engineering Executive; Leader of Electrification and Sustainability

Date: January 5, 2024