VTR, GMRC & Irene

Vermont Rail System

Hurricane Irene Damage and Recovery

Briefing Prepared for
Vermont State House and
Senate Transportation Committee

Montpelier, VT

October 12, 2011
Agenda

- Overview – Irene’s Impact on Vermont
- Impact on Vermont Rail System
- The Damage
- The Recovery
- Impact on customers
August 28 Irene Slams into New England
News Headlines After the Storm

Hurricane Irene Hits Vermont: State Begins Sorting Through Flooding After Storm

Tropical Storm Irene wreaks havoc in southern Vermont

Tropical Storm Irene slams Vermont with heavy rains, flash flooding

Airlifts planned to supply cut-off Vt. towns
Highway Washouts Near Rutland
Route 4 between Killington, VT and Mendon, VT.
More than Road Damage - 700 Homes Destroyed
Impact on VRS

Over half of our system was shut down for three weeks
The Damage

- 107 Washouts – over 50 very large
  - 32 on GMRC
  - 47 on B&R
  - 4 on VTR Northern
  - 9 on CLP
  - 9 on WACR Conn River
  - 6 on WACR M&B
- 6 Bridges severely compromised
  - All suffered major structural damage
North of Rutland near Florence VT – MP 63 - VTR is in middle of picture:
Bridge #114, Milepost 11 on the Green Mountain Subdivision
Bridge #114, Milepost 11 on the GMRC from the other side of the bridge
The Proctorsville, Vt., thru-truss bridge on the Green Mountain Railroad is compromised on both sides.

The railroad's chartered helicopter with officials aboard is surveying the Green Mountain Railroad Co.
Adjacent to the Route 103 grade crossing in Proctorsville, VT., the Black River overflowed its banks well over the height of the railroad bridge, washing away the approaches on both ends. More than 200 feet of rail is suspended in the air to the north end of the bridge.
GMRC North of Mt Holly, VT
One of many washouts on B&R Milepost 48, Wallingford, VT
Total of 11 Miles of Track Washed out
North of Alfrecha Crossing, Rutland on B&R
The Washington County Railroad bridge (formerly B&M bridge) has held up to the elements since its installation in 1936, but met its match with Irene. Seen off its pier and from the deck surface, this bridge has severed service to the VTR Conn River line.
The Washington County Railroad bridge (formerly B&M bridge) looking north from White River this bridge has severed service to the upper Connecticut River valley.
The Recovery Effort
MOW team started work the day after the storm

Repair work underway on bridge 114 near Chester, VT:
The Recovery Effort

- Mobilization of contractors, material, equipment, men
- 6 different contractors and engineering firms for the bridges
- Worked 24/7 for three weeks straight
- Several vendors supplied ballast, rip rap and other material. Also worked around the clock.
- Thanks to Vermont AOT, facilitated the recovery effort
- State of VT waived environmental regulations and weight restrictions temporarily
The Recovery Effort

- 3 Surfacing crews working simultaneously
  - 2 VRS, 1 RJ Corman

- Over 250 men working on the recovery

- Side dumps and ballast cars from CPRS, P&W, NECR, Amtrak others. MMA supplied engine for WACR

- Thank you to ASLRRRA (dragnet) and many of our short line friends who offered help, advice and equipment.

- NECR and VRS worked together to repair track, secure ballast and share equipment
Rip Rap, Ballast and Ties Replaced

- GMRC – 47,000 tons
- B&R -40,000 tons
- WACR – 2,000
- 50 dump trucks mobilized
- 1,000 ties replaced
Bridge 114 Under Repair
Building emergency temporary roads to reach remote locations.
Rotary dump truck delivering material to job site.
Bartonsville Under Repair
Bartonsville After - Repairs Completed
Bridge at White River Junction Under Repair
White River Junction Bridge Under Repair
Could not have done it without….

and many others.
ECI & VHB on Bridge 114
Before August 29

After September 18
White River Junction October 11, 2011
White River Junction October 11, 2011
Service Restoration

- Railroad shut down August 29
- Service restored on:
  - CLP Aug 31
  - VTR Northern Aug 31
  - WACR Conn River from north only Sept 9
  - GMRC Sept 16
  - VTR B&R Sept 18
  - White River Junction Bridge Oct 11
    - (NYOG & WACR M&B not closed)
Impact on Customers

- VRS did not issue any embargos
  - Arranged transloading and detours (CPR & PAS)
  - Did have delays but kept traffic flowing
- Accurate Customer Service Bulletins
  - Positive feedback
  - They like being kept informed
  - It helped ease pain of delays
  - Reduced/eliminated customer complaints
  - Willing to work with us
Impact On Customers

- Wheels Underwater – private cars
- Loss of fall foliage season for passenger excursions
Work on Bethel, VT 107 Bridge 115
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PS: Send Side Dumps!!
Success!

Thank you! Questions?