

Meeting Notes

Framework for Energy Innovation: Distributed Resources and Utility Incentives (EB-2021-0118)

Working Group Meeting #1

Meeting Date: June 16, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendees

FEIWG Members	Affiliation
Indy Butany-DeSouza	Alectra Utilities
Ian Mondrow	AMPCO and IGUA
Dr. Don Richardson	Anwaatin
Marc Brouillette	Canadian Manufact. & Exporters
Cara Clairman	ChargePoint
Julie Girvan	Consumers Council of Canada
Allen M. Freifeld	Demand Power Group
Kathi Farmer	EDA
Falguni Shah	Elexicon Energy
Cara-Lynne Wade	Enbridge
Sarah Griffiths	Enel
Geoff Osborne	Energy Storage Canada
Kent Elson	Environmental Defence
Nimal Weeratunga	ENWIN
Darren McCrank	EPCOR
Spencer Gill	Hydro One
Brennan Louw	IESO
Marc Brouillette	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Michael Brophy	Pollution Probe
Adam White	Powerconsumer
Jay Shepherd	Schools Energy Coalition
Andrew Sasso	Toronto Hydro
Chris Codd	Versorium Energy

Observers	Affiliation
Tom Ladanyi	Energy Probe
Adam Hariri	LEI
Utilia Amaral	Market Step
Mark Thompson	MENDM
Kristen Bromfield	MENDM
Roy Hrab	Ontario Energy Association
Travis Lusney	Power Advisory
Sarah Simmons	Power Advisory
Alex Simakov	Sussex Strategy

OEB Staff	Role
Carolyn Calwell	FEI Executive Sponsor Chief Corporate Services Officer & General Counsel
Ceirán Bishop	FEI Director Director, Strategic Policy
Gona Jaff	FEI Lead Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy
Lenore Robson	FEI Lead Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy
Tara Brautigam	FEI Team Senior Advisor, Public Affairs
Maia Chase	FEI Team Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy
Laura Farid	FEI Team Summer Student, Executive Office
Chris Cincar	Regional Planning Process Review Lead Senior Advisor, Industry Policy & Compliance
Catherine Eithier	DER Connections Review Lead Policy Advisor, Industry Policy & Compliance

Purpose

These notes summarize the information discussed during the working group meeting on each of the key points presented in the published materials.

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome Remarks

- The meeting began with the Land Acknowledgement
- The FEIWG members then briefly introduced themselves and their organization and/or representation and the perspective they bring to the FEIWG
- Carolyn Calwell of the OEB addressed the FEIWG and encouraged members to strive to meet the objectives in a timely manner

2. Review of the Terms of Reference

Discussion Comments	Discussion Outcome	Action Items
<p>Members asked for clarity about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is attending as observers, and whose interests they are representing The function of observers at the meeting and garnering their expertise outside of the meetings 	<p>It was clarified that FEIWG members can call upon observers to make presentations or provide information at FEIWG meetings. Observers would not be invited to participate in FEIWG discussion or deliberation.</p>	<p>OEB staff to include a list of participants and observers in the meeting notes.</p>
<p>Clarity was sought on the degree to which the FEIWG was to make decisions, as distinct from recommendations.</p>	<p>It was clarified that members are only responsible for making recommendations to the OEB. The policy decision making and related processes lie with the OEB.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>There was discussion on whether consensus was necessary for making recommendations to the OEB, versus other options for determining recommendations.</p>	<p>It was generally agreed that reaching membership consensus on FEIWG recommendations to be submitted to the OEB is encouraged. However, if members are unable to reach consensus, dissenting opinions along with discussion/rationale should be included in any FEIWG reports.</p>	<p>OEB Staff to include in the meeting notes that any dissenting opinions along with discussion/rationale should be included in any FEIWG reports.</p>
<p>A member raised the issue of whether FEIWG meeting discussions are to be public or confidential.</p>	<p>Staff outlined that meetings are not intended to be confidential as FEIWG members report back to their organizations and relevant stakeholders and this is reflected in the language of the ToR.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A FEIWG member requested that the ToR be revised to expressly include Indigenous consumers.</p>	<p>This change was endorsed by the other members.</p>	<p>OEB staff to amend the first paragraph in the Background section of the ToR to add “inclusive of Indigenous consumers” at the end of the paragraph as suggested by Dr. Don Richardson.</p>

3. FEIWG Lead Selection Discussion

Discussion Comments	Discussion Outcome	Action Items
Members discussed the qualifications for the FEIWG Lead, and they generally agreed that Andrew Sasso, Sarah Griffiths and Ian Mondrow met those qualifications. Members further discussed, and agreed, to proceed with 3 co-leads to bring balance and sufficient resources to the Lead function.	Andrew Sasso, Sarah Griffiths and Ian Mondrow were confirmed as co-leads for the FEIWG.	N/A
Engaging an independent facilitator instead of or in addition to a FEIWG Lead was discussed. Most members were of the view that facilitators may not be effective in the Lead role unless they have significant sector/DER experience.	OEB staff clarified that the facilitator is an option available to the FEIWG for use in particular discussions or initiatives, if that is determined to be of assistance. OEB Staff's consultants (LEI and ICF) can also be made available to assist the FEIWG if desired.	N/A

4. Review of Workstream & Near-Term Priorities

Discussion Comments	Discussion Outcome	Action Items
<p>Near-term priorities under each workstreams were reviewed. Members were asked to identify the foundational issues that need to be addressed by the group.</p> <p>Members raised a wide range of questions and issues.</p> <p>One member noted that tackling the full breadth of topics discussed would go beyond the scope of what the OEB asked FEIWG to look at and compromise the ability to achieve the desired results needed in 6, 9 and 12 months. The member suggested that the focus should be consistent with the scope of the approved workstreams, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and discuss high value "use cases" and choose 3 or 4 to focus on 	<p>OEB staff reiterated that to be of most assistance to the OEB the FEIWG's focus should be consistent with the scope of the approved workstreams.</p> <p>Members noted that it would be more efficient for a workplan to be developed by the co-leads and circulated to the group for input, comment and discussion.</p>	<p>Co-Leads to circulate draft workplan to FEIWG members for comments and discussion at the 2nd FEIWG meeting.</p> <p>Alectra can provide examples of its utility DER pilots (to be included in work plan).</p> <p>SEC to contact clients for examples of school projects examples (for discussion in accord with work plan).</p> <p>Provide list of current LDC pilots.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better understand and identify the benefits (and issues) from those chosen cases Consider incentives to support deployment of those cases Identify all the ancillary, and important issues arising from those cases and recommend if, how and when the OEB could/should address them <p>The other topics are important and their importance should be noted, but parked at this time in the interests of workability of the process.</p>		
<p>A member suggested creating a shared platform for posting relevant information by FEIWG members.</p>	<p>Members were generally supportive of this suggested idea.</p>	<p>OEB staff to set up an information sharing platform for FEIWG members.</p>
<p>A member indicated it would be helpful to understand how utilities assess system implications of variable load and load management based DERs.</p>	<p>Utilities to consider the question and report back to the FEIWG.</p>	<p>Hydro One to report back on system implications of variable load or load management type DERs.</p>
<p>A member suggested that the OEB explore joint DER investment and not just non-utility investment in DERs.</p>	<p>Some members supported the idea of including this in the scope of the discussion.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

5. Co-ordination with the IESO

Discussion Comments	Discussion Outcome	Action Items
<p>Brennan Louw of the IESO presented a proposed plan for coordination, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hosting meetings two times a year with the first meeting to occur in the fall of 2021 those meetings would be for identifying cross-cutting issues that impact the work of both the OEB and the IESO <p>[A copy of the slides from this presentation is included in the meeting materials posted on the FEI consultation webpage.]</p>	<p>Members were supportive of the proposed joint engagement and noted that having the IESO on the FEIWG further demonstrates that both organizations are open to coordination.</p>	<p>Members to provide feedback on the proposed plan and identify cross-cutting issues via e-mail to FEI@oeb.ca.</p>

<p>Brennan noted that after the fall meeting, a comprehensive list of cross-cutting DER issues will be circulated.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to submit their comments to either the OEB or IESO on such issues.</p> <p>Members also raised the issue of cost awards for the co-ordination meetings. OEB staff noted that FEIWG participant costs should be available, for those FEIWG members eligible for cost awards, for the co-ordination meetings as part of the FEIWG working group activities. Details about maximum hours will be provided in advance of the meetings.</p>		
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6. Logistics Discussion/Next Steps

Discussion Comments	Discussion Outcome	Action Items
<p>Some members noted that the proposed 4 weeks between the first few meetings is too long and would like to have the initial meetings occur within two weeks of each other as it is important to maximize engagement of the FEIWG members.</p>	<p>This was widely supported.</p> <p>Members suggested using a scheduling tool such as Doodle to identify members availability for next dates for the meetings.</p>	<p>OEB staff to send out a Doodle poll for member availability for a further meeting in the coming weeks, one in July and one in August.</p>
<p>Members discussed having a standing meeting day every two weeks to support advance scheduling and availability.</p>	<p>Wednesday was identified as the preferred day as the OEB does not hold hearings on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Standings meetings would begin in the fall.</p>	<p>OEB staff to schedule standing meetings on Wednesdays every two weeks commencing in the fall.</p>

List of Action Items

Action Item	Assignment/Owner	Due Date
Update the ToR to include Indigenous consumers.	OEB Staff	Meeting #2
Include in the meeting notes that any dissenting opinions along with discussion/rationale should be included in any FEIWG reports.	OEB Staff	Included in notes
Circulate a draft workplan for group comment and discussion.	FEIWG Co-leads	Meeting #2
Alectra to provide examples of current pilot projects in their area.	Indy Butany-DeSouza	TBD as part of work plan
SEC to contact clients for examples of school project examples for discussion.	Jay Shepherd	TBD as part of work plan
Provide list of current LDC pilots.	Brennan Louw/OEB Staff	Meeting #2
OEB staff to set up an information sharing platform for FEIWG members.	OEB Staff	As soon as feasible
Hydro One to report back to the group on variable load – load management.	Spencer Gill	TBD as part of work plan
Members to provide feedback on the proposed OEB/IESO co-ordination proposal and identify cross-cutting issues via e-mail to FEI@oeb.ca.	FEIWG Members	July 14, 2021
Doodle Poll to determine meeting dates over the summer.	OEB Staff	Prior to meeting #2
OEB staff to schedule standing meetings on Wednesdays every two weeks commencing in the fall.	OEB Staff	As soon as feasible