

Distribution Access Rule Task Force Minutes of Meeting #1 January 19, 2000

Attendance list: attached.

Agenda: distributed in advance; copy attached.

Brian Hewson welcomed all Task Force members on behalf of Board Staff, thanking members for volunteering to participate.

1. Task Force Purpose

- To provide a report to assist Board Staff in drafting the Gas Utility Access Rule (the "Rule")
- To provide a full discussion of the issues addressed by the Rule
- To provide a full discussion of all aspects and interests pertinent to the issues

Brian Hewson Made some opening remarks regarding the work of the DAR Task Force and its role in drafting a Distribution Access Rule.

- The Rule is necessary to provide for the next step in deregulation
 - The Board has asked staff to prepare a draft Rule
 - In developing the Rule, industry input is needed; Staff is relying on the expertise and experience of members of the Task Force
- Given changes in legislation and the marketplace, it may be necessary to revisit issues that were addressed in the Market Design Task Force ("MDTF") Reports to the Board.
- The time line is critical:
 - The gas industry must not fall behind electricity
 - The draft Rule must be completed and released for stakeholder consideration and comment by late May or early June; hence,
 - Task Force must report by late April
- The Report should have as much consensus as is achievable in the available time; however, to address areas where consensus is not reached:
 - Working assumptions should be identified (e.g., alternate approaches)
 - Address implementation issues based on the working assumptions (or each alternate set of assumptions)
 - Staff is available to provide guidance on contentious issues to ensure that relevant working assumptions are considered.
- The expected format of the Report is modelled after the Report for the Electricity Retail Settlement Code
 - Focus on Summary of Recommendations (SORs)
 - Succinct discussion covering:
 - Issues
 - Options
 - Discussion
 - Conclusions
 - Dissenting views

- Staff will prepare a draft Rule based on the Task Force Report
 - The TF will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Rule to identify any inconsistencies
 - Staff will finalize the draft Rule for circulation to all stakeholders for review and comment
- If Task Force fails to make timely progress, staff will have to step in and prepare a draft Rule without the benefit of the Task Force Report
 - The draft Rule would then be issued for consultation
 - From Staff's perspective, industry input is necessary to get the draft Rule out and simplify consultation

2. Participant Roles

- Members: responsible for the discussing issues and determining resolutions to be reflected in the Report. It is hoped that members will discuss issues with non-members of the Task Force and ensure that all stakeholder concerns are addressed. Views not formally represented among members must be taken into consideration in preparing the Report.
- Chair (John Todd): Responsible for ensuring that the issues are fully and fairly aired and the Report is completed on a timely basis. Also, a resource to the Task Force to assist as required.
- Board Staff: Responsible for providing assistance in the Task Force discussions, direction as required and working to ensure that the Board timeline is met.
- Administrative Assistance: Provided by Staff for arranging meetings, coordinating distribution of material to all members, posting material on the OEB website, etc.

3. Task Force Operation

a. Work Plan

- Step 1: Initial issue-by-issue discussion and resolution
 - Issues initially based on the categorization per 5.b below
 - Order of issues based on time required, logical sequencing, etc.
- Step 2: First cut of Report to be prepared based on these discussions
- Step 3: Final review of package for consistency, completeness, etc.

b. Decision-making

- Two categories: unanimous agreement and disputed
 - The members may also use the "dissent" designation to indicate that there was near-unanimity.

c. Committees of the Task Force

- Committees will be used for discussing all issues requiring significant time
 - Use of committees is primarily to schedule discussion of issues so that members can be selective about their participation.

d. Schedule

- Task Force will generally meet every two weeks, with committees meeting when convenient for interested participants.

4. Task Force Logistics

- Centralized distribution of all material will be provided by Board Staff
- The OEB web site should serve as an additional forum for input. It will include the names of members so that others can contact them to provide comments.

5. Other Matters

a. Completeness of Draft Table of Contents

- Additions (no deletions – they will require justification through analysis of issues)
- A question was raised as to the extent to which the issue of unbundling will be addressed by the Task Force.
 - The appropriate scope of the discussion of this issue was disputed;
Board Staff will obtain further direction and report back
- A question was raised as to the forum in which access to Transmission and Storage services will be addressed. **Staff will seek further information from Mark Garner and report back.**

b. Preliminary Categorization of Issues

- Contentious (establish priority and assign to sub-committee)
- Detailed/technical analysis required (priority and sub-committee assignment)
- Could be handled by individual, possibly non-member
- Fundamental research required (priority and assign for information collection)
- Could be handled by individual, possibly non-member
- Straightforward (no sub-committee work needed; establish priority)

c. Initial Work Plan

- For each issue assigned to a Committee, identify:
 - Leader
 - Liaison
 - Schedule
 - Priority
- Three committees were struck and meetings scheduled
 - #1 SSO: to meet Jan. 25
 - members to review relevant sections of the MDTF Reports and Draft Electricity Retail Settlement Code
 - utilities to provide an update on the status of their work on developing an SSO

- #2 Customer Transfers: to meet Jan 26
 - utilities to be prepared to review existing rules and policies
 - volunteers agreed to obtain background information on the experience in other jurisdictions
 - Atlanta: Marcel
 - General info on Internet: Jack
 - Canada: John
- #3 Distribution Services: to meet after the Task Force meeting on Feb 2
 - Staff to provide an expanded definition of issues that are included in this topic
 - Focus is expected to be on service eligibility
- Future committees were noted and useful background information identified
 - Settlement and prudential requirements
 - Recommendations of the BC Gas Market Unbundling Group (John)
 - Provision of consumer information
 - LDC Gas Marketer Code
 - Waitzer Report (OEMA)
 - Affiliate Relations Code
 - Emergency supply planning
 - ECOMAP briefing (Scott via Judy)
 - Legislative constraints (?) ECA, Part VIII not proclaimed
 - Distributor/retailer relations
 - No background info identified
 - Compliance and dispute resolution
 - Existing process per Retailer Code
 - OEB Staff to clarify what is required in the DAR
 - Distribution connection
 - EBO 188 Decision
 - Content of Union customer info meeting last September (Marcel)

ATTENDANCE
Distribution Access Rule Task Force
Meeting #1 January 19, 2000

Allan, Judy	Enbridge
Blake, Bill	NRG
Goldsilver, Eric	MEU coalition
Howell, Brian	IGUA
Jones, Elizabeth	TCGS
Litt, Kathi	OEB Staff
Mia, Ziyad	CEED
Petruzella, Nick	Six Nations
Quinn, Dwayne	Kitchener
Reghelini, Marcel	Union
Schoenmakers, Jack	OESC
Schumann, Helmuth	MEST
Scully, Peter	ECNG
Stacy, Jason	
Todd, John	OEB Facilitator
Villanueva, Gerry	Direct