

# Meeting Summary



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## OEB Smart Grid Advisory Committee

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**Meeting Date:** July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 **Time:** 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

**Location:** 2300 Yonge Street, 25th Floor, ADR room

**Board Staff:** Brian Hewson, Roy Hrab, Rachel Anderson, David Wilson, David Richmond

**Meeting Topic:** Kick off meeting to scope the purpose of the Smart Grid Advisory Committee. Identify key issues surrounding Data Access and Electricity Storage.

The Meeting Summary will provide a high level review of the Smart Grid Advisory Committee presentations, discussions, and debates. The summary will identify the key issues that arise and any of the solutions or conclusions the Committee came to. It will also identify administrative details for future Committee meetings including dates, topics, and attendance. It will not attribute comments to any individual organization besides Board Staff and presenters. A presentation was provided by Staff that covered each area of the agenda. Both are available on the [Smart Grid Advisory Committee Website](#).

### Meeting Agenda

1. Setting the Context
2. Committee Structure and Approach
3. Data Access
4. Deployment of Smart Grid Technologies
5. Future Committee meetings

## Setting the Context for the Smart Grid Advisory Committee

- The context for the Committee's work was set through a brief review of the lead up to the Committee and the policy related to smart grid development and implementation in the province.
- Board's policy direction reflected in two documents, the Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity Distributors (the "RRFE") and the Supplemental Report on Smart Grid (the "Report")
- In the Board's report it set out the need for an ongoing advisory body to provide further guidance to the Board on smart grid development and implementation
- *Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee*
  - At what level will behind the meter services be discussed and what is the demarcation point?
    - While the Board will not regulate behind the meter the Committee's work may at times cross over the demarcation point
  - Regional planning groups may not be the best way to encourage cooperation and interoperability between distributors for smart grid planning
    - Neighbouring distributors needs are not necessarily similar for smart grid planning as they are for more conventional system planning
    - Regional planning groups do not limit the distributor from cooperating with others outside their group

## Committee Structure and Objectives

- Staff set out a proposal for the structure and functioning of the SGAC
- The objective of the Committee is to identify key issues for the Board to consider and if possible provide solutions and recommendations for the Board to consider
- The core Committee membership will consist of a mix of consumers, transmitters, government agencies, industry groups, and technology vendors.
- The Committee will meet to discuss issues identified by the Board, Board staff, committee members or industry
  - The intent of the meetings of the SGAC will be to identify the issues and key questions, review proposed solutions and develop recommendations for the Board
- Where an issue requires research or technical analysis the Committee may call on subject matter experts and/or form a working group to review the issue and present its findings back to the Committee
  - A working group may be composed of members of the Committee and representatives from outside the Committee who can provide unique insight into the issue
- It is expected that the Committee will meet monthly but the frequency may change to reflect the needs of the Committee
- *Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee*

- Want to avoid unnecessary overlap with other committees and groups (e.g. Smart Grid Forum, Smart Grid Canada, Standards Council of Canada, IEEE, etc.)
- New potential members were suggested (EV industry, academics, additional consumers, meter vendors)

## Data Access

### **Summary of Board's Perspective**

- Data access mechanisms and preferences are being examined in Ontario through a variety of projects
  - Green Button Initiative
  - SME/MDMR
  - OPA Social Benchmarking
- Expectation is for distributors to explore mechanisms that facilitate real time data access and behind the meter services

### **Real Time Data (Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee)**

- What does real time mean?
  - Real time refers to the movement towards as near to real time data as possible
- Who is responsible for the cost of implementing real time data?
  - Currently customer is responsible for paying for real time data meter technology
  - Utility only needs data resolution suitable for billing therefore the costs of accessing real time data will likely not be recovered through rates until a utility can demonstrate that such capabilities are consistent with the expectations of its customer base
    - Are there benefits beyond billing for utilities that capture real time data (e.g. stability monitoring and alert systems)?
  - There may be high system upgrade costs for capturing real time data

### **Data Privacy (Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee)**

- Important to determine who are the stakeholders and what data privacy and access rights they have
- The privacy risk increases with better quality data because it is easier to attribute to an individual
- Suggested that data collection and data analytics should be done separately
- Is it possible for consumers to have direct access to their data through their meter avoiding any issues with engaging a utility or third party?

## **Customer Interest in Data Access (Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee)**

- Some customers have no interest in data access
  - Is the lack of interest a lack of education issue?
- As a distributor, how do you properly determine if your customers want real time data?
- Even with real time data access, customers will still need stronger price signals to encourage any type of significant behavioural response

## **Storage**

### **Summary of Board's Perspective**

- Board identified need to address barriers to storage from a wide range of perspectives
  - Technical, economic, institutional and regulatory

### **Valuing Storage (Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee)**

- What are the services that storage can provide?
- Value of storage is currently being addressed by a variety of other bodies, i.e MaRs
- How valid is the expectation that storage facilities can realistically provide multiple services simultaneously?
  - Is this the only business case where storage operations are profitable?
  - If valid business cases for storage are accurate, what is preventing adoption?
    - lack of long term contracts, market mechanisms, cost recovery certainty, etc.?
- How can a utility account for multiple stakeholder benefits in a rate application?

### **Regulatory Treatment of Storage (Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee)**

- Need clear direction on licensing requirements for storage
  - In terms of distributor owned storage, any regulatory barriers are likely to be addressed by the Board if and when a distributor submits an application that includes a storage proposal
- Should storage be treated any differently than any other system asset?
  - Cost responsibilities
  - System planning
  - Payment schemes

### Future Committee Meetings

- Identified need for further discussion on key issues surrounding both data access and storage

**Next meeting – August 20<sup>th</sup>:** Emphasis on identifying key issues regarding data access and storage and establishing appropriate working groups as necessary