Meeting Summary

OEB Smart Grid Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: August 20th, 2013   **Time:**   9:30 am – 4:00 pm

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

The Meeting Summary provides a high level review of the presentations and discussions at the Smart Grid Advisory Committee. The summary identifies key issues that arise and any conclusions or recommendations by the Committee. It will not attribute comments to any individual organization besides Board Staff and presenters. Presentations and Agendas will be available on the Smart Grid Advisory Committee Website.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introduction and Recap
2. Data Access
3. Storage
4. Future Committee Meetings

1. Introduction and Recap

- The main objective of the Committee is to develop advice and recommendations for consideration by the Board
- The objective of today's meeting is to develop a clear set of questions that need to be addressed in order to deal with the identified issues surrounding data access and storage
- Discussion – Comment and Questions from the Committee
  - Board Staff suggested that Committee members send comments on meeting summaries to Staff who will provide a revised version for discussion at the next meeting. This was agreed to by the Committee.
  - A committee member requested that staff look into the possibility of a shared space in order to permit Committee members to share information and work on documents. Staff agreed that it would look into this.

2. Data Access

- It was proposed that the discussion of data issues be broken down by customer groups as each come with a unique sets of challenges:
  - Small customers - <50kW (Residential and Small Commercial)
  - Large customers - >50kW (Large Industrial and Large Commercial)
- The Committee was reminded that in its [Supplemental Report on Smart Grid](#), the Board had set out an expectation that utilities facilitate data access for all customers

2.1 – Data Access (Presentation by MaRS)

- Presentation is available on the Committee website
- Comment and Questions from the Committee
  - Green Button has not significantly increased the number of customers taking advantage of access to their consumption data
  - Important to keep the cost of Green Button low so that even small utilities can afford to provide it

2.2 - Residential and Small Commercial Data Access (Discussion)

- Following on from the previous meeting where there was an extensive discussion of the issues related to data access for this customer group, the Committee focused on the identification of issues and key questions to be addressed to ensure data access is provided in a manner consistent with the expectations of customers.
- MDM/R is being accessed directly by the LDC's and customers can access the MDM/R through their LDC's

- o The MDM/R has grown from its original purpose and requires upgrades to account for increased functionality and demand
- Should the MDM/R be the main hub for data storage and access?
- Two separate data access discussions need to occur
  1. Billing quality data access
     - Billing quality data is the data LDCs use to bill their customers
     - The LDCs are expected to provide historical billing data to the customers
     - Access to historical billing quality data allows customers to identify consumption trends to better improve their usage habits and ideally reduce costs
  2. Real time data access
     - Real time data access is the ability for customers to see immediate changes in their consumption
     - LDCs are expected to facilitate customer access to real time data
     - Real time data access would allow customers to make operational decisions on their electricity consumption based on real time data that would improve the cost efficiency of the operation
- Board has expectation that distributors will provide historical billing quality data to customers and facilitate the implementation of real time data access

2.3 - Large Industrial and Large Commercial Data Access (Discussion)

- Real time data is important for these customers to make operational decisions about their energy usage which is not possible with historical data
- Customers currently have options to get real time data through third party technology and service providers
  - o Codes provide for right to access to the meter and data
  - o Generally there is good access through distributors
  - o Is there a need for a standardized format?
- Meter pulse outputs (which provides data in a standard format) should be accessible to any customer who wants them to enable behind the meter solutions allowing real time data access
- It was suggested that customers are not currently interested in pursuing real time data access
  - o Why? At the next meeting, BOMA to provide Committee with information on what customers want from their data and what customer's think the barriers are
  - o What is the value?

- Is there a role for LDCs and if so what is it? Is there a need for a regulatory response and does the Board need to address this?

2.4 – Small Customer Data Access Working Group

- Key Issues and Questions identified regarding data access for small customers:
    - What is the value of billing quality data to customers?
    - What are customers looking for in billing data and what is preventing further usage?
    - With respect to data privacy, who are the stakeholders and what data privacy rights and expectations do they have?
    - What are the rules with respect to third party access to customer data, and how should utilities be required to facilitate this access
    - What is the timing for the rest of GB rollout for all distributors and at what cost?
    - What is the role of the Board in regard to the rules relating to billing data access?
- The Committee suggested that since it was already discussing small customer billing data access questions the EDAP Working Group could be a forum to prepare proposals for the Committee's consideration. The EDAP representatives accepted this request.
- EDAP agreed that it would provide its current membership list (attached to these notes or a hyperlink) and the Committee may recommend EDAP consider adding additional members to ensure all stakeholders are represented during discussion of the identified issues and questions
- In terms of a timeline for the working group, the expectation is that the Committee will be able to provide recommendations before the end of the current year.
    - In order to facilitate this timing the EDAP working group will be asked to provide an update on its discussions at the October Committee meeting.

2.5 – Real Time Data Access Working Group

- Following the discussion on real time data access, a working group was established to deal with issues and questions surrounding real time data access (See Appendix A for member list).
- The following questions were identified for the working group's consideration:
    - What is an appropriate definition of real time data?
        - At what interval is data considered real time (e.g. 5 minutes, 15 minutes, hour, etc…)?
        - At what latency is data considered real time (e.g. available 5 minutes after consumption, 15 minutes after consumption, an hour after consumption, etc…)?

- o If this can all be achieved by behind the meter technology, what is the need for LDC participation now and going forward?
- o Is there evidence that there is value in real time data?
  - ▪ That may not be the question, is there a need to make this data available to service providers who can determine if there is value
- o Need to establish the resolution in which real time data is the responsibility of the individual customer and at which resolution does it become standard for all meters
  - ▪ Is this resolution expected to change over time?
- • In terms of a timeline for the working group, the expectation is that the Committee will be able to provide preliminary recommendations before the end of the current year.
  - o In order to facilitate this timing the Real Time Data Access Working Group will be asked to provide an update on its discussions at the November Committee meeting

3. Storage

3.1 - Community Energy Storage (Presentation by THESL)
- • Presentation is available on the Committee website

3.2 – A Power System Planner's Assessment of Energy Storage (Presentation by OPA)
- • Presentation is available on the Committee website

3.3 - Storage (Discussion – Comments and Questions from the Committee)
- • Goal of the Committee's work is to ensure regulatory treatment of storage is fair and that proper valuation of storage would support investment when it makes sense
- • Areas of concern for storage vendors include:
  - o Storage should be treated as a wholesale load which is not subject to global adjustment, uplift or retail charges
  - o Ancillary Service contracts do not value the unique benefits storage can provide (e.g. fast ramping speeds)
  - o Storage is not explicitly identified in regulatory and planning documents such as the DSC, TSC, and licenses
- • Staff are of the view that storage technology installed to provide services that enhance or maintain network operations (i.e. storage instead of a more traditional technology or solution) would be viewed the same in a rate hearing by the Board
- • Board is trying to determine if there are any regulatory barriers/challenges

- How can storage technologies be compared to each other and competing technologies?
- Pilots will be able to provide more information on the services, value of, and business case for storage going forward

3.4 – Storage Working Group

- Following a discussion of storage issues and potential questions, a working group has been established to deal with issues and questions surrounding storage (See Appendix B for member list).
- The following questions were identified for the working group's consideration:
    - What role(s) can storage play in the Ontario electricity system? This will provide for a basis for the evaluation of storage technologies and the challenges/barriers.
    - How should the benefits of storage be properly valued?
    - Can storage provide multiple benefits to multiple stakeholders through multiple revenue streams simultaneously? How should this be evaluated and valued? What are the constraints?
    - Safety standards change depending on the technology application (e.g. generator, load, distribution asset). How should storage safety standards be prescribed if the same storage technology is being installed under two different applications or if storage is not clearly classified under any one application?
    - What changes does the Board have to make to account for storage in Ontario?
        - Licensing, T&D hearings, codes and rules, cost allocation, etc…
- Regarding a timeline for the working group, it is tentatively expected that the Committee will be able to provide recommendations by January 2014.
    - In order to facilitate this timing Storage Working Group will be asked to provide an update on its discussions at the November Committee meeting

4. Closing and Future Meetings

- Next meeting will focus on cyber security
    - Cyber security
- Based on the questions identified at this meeting, staff will develop question sets for each working group with the input from Committee members
- Future meeting dates:
    - September 24 (rescheduled to October 1)
    - October 22
    - November 26
    - December 17

Appendix A: Real Time Data Access Working Group Member List

1. Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro – Michael Knox
2. Direct Energy – Karen Cooke
3. Energate – Alan Clarke
4. Festival Hydro – Ysni Semsedini
5. Honeywell – Peter Black
6. Hydro One – Ravi Seethapathy
7. MaRS – Joe Greenwood and Sasha Sud
8. Utilities Kingston – Kevin McCauley
9. IBM – Andy Laskowski
10. Energent – Gord Ellis

Observer: Ministry of Energy – Usman Syed

Appendix B: Storage Working Group Member List

1. BOMA – Scott Rouse
2. ESA – Nancy Hanna
3. IESO – Dave Barrett
4. Hydro One – Ravi Seethapathy
5. MaRS – John Dogterom
6. OESA – Cam Carver
7. OESAAC – Lisa DeMarco
8. OPA –George Pessione
9. Power Stream – Martin Rovers
10. Toronto Hydro – Aisha Bukhari

Observer: Ministry of Energy – Usman Syed