

Meeting Summary: MRP Implementation Working Group

Meeting date: October 6, 2023
Meeting time: 09:00 a.m

Meeting location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair/Facilitator: Candice Trickey / Maria Go

Invitees	Representing	Attendance Status (Attended / Regrets)
Hisham Omara	Alectra	Regrets
Margaret Koontz	Atura Power	Regrets
Noralyn Vasquez	Atura Power	Attended
Alvin Zhang	Bruce Power	Attended
Chris Sutherland	Capital Power	Attended
Brittany Ashby	Electricity Distributors Association	Regrets
Marc Robitaille	Evolugen	Attended
Nancy Demers	Hydro Quebec	Attended
Francois Abdelnour	Ivaco Rolling Mills	Attended
Lynn Wizniak	Ontario Power Generation	Attended
Jason Chee-Aloy	Power Advisory, LLC	Attended
Sarah Simmons	Power Advisory, LLC	Attended
Dave Forsyth	Rodan Energy Solutions	Attended
Chris Cincar	Ontario Energy Board	Attended
Freed Akhter	Ontario Energy Board	Attended
Thomas Eminowicz	Ontario Energy Board	Attended
Jennifer Jayapalan	Workbench Energy	Attended
Candice Trickey	IESO	Attended
Cynthia Sidalak	IESO	Attended

Geerthanan Thiviyarajah	IESO	Attended
Heidi Tran	IESO	Attended
Maria Go	IESO	Attended
Wang Chiu	IESO	Attended
William Whiting	IESO	Attended

MRP Implementation Working Group Meeting Summary October, 6, 2023

Agenda Item 1: Welcome; Agenda and Standing Items Review

- The Chair welcomed attendees to the sixth Implementation Working Group (IWG) meeting for the Market Renewal Program (MRP). The Chair updated members that the project is continuing to test changes on all impacted IT solutions and is on track for Go-Live on May 2025. The IESO also updated members on the continuing discussions with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to help participants understand how changes to the IESO charge types will impact existing codes and variance accounts. The OEB will provide an update at the LDC-IESO MRP Preparedness Group meeting once they complete their assessment.
- The Facilitator walked through the agenda and the action items from the last IWG meeting.
- A copy of the Form of Acknowledgment and Undertaking for qTest was sent to members via email on September 1st. A few members provided feedback and requested clarification on some of the terms. The comments are currently being reviewed by the IESO's IT and legal department, and will be reviewed with individual members.
- A list of MRP business advisors and their assigned segments were sent to the IWG members. The latest Market Renewal newsletter also requested market participants to identify an MRP contact for their organization. Approximately 70 market participants have already reached out to the IESO.
- The IESO reviewed the EDA's request to map all charge types to new and existing IESO reports. Unfortunately, this analysis requires significant effort and a large number of scenarios to be considered. The IESO has requested for the EDA to identify the specific parameters and reports they are interested in to support this request.

Agenda Item 2: June 2023 External Readiness Assessment Survey – Results Summary (with materials)

- The IESO provided a summary of the results from the first assessment survey. These surveys are intended to help mitigate the risk of market participants being unprepared at Go-Live, and to signal potential issues that market participants are encountering to the IESO.
- The IESO emphasized the importance of identifying an MRP Contact from each market participant. The External Readiness Team will be sending out future assessment surveys to each MRP Contact to monitor their organization's progress between now and MRP Go-Live.
- Members discussed the topic with the following comment:
 - A member suggested to include the market participant's name in the IESO's email when requesting an MRP Contact, and to also have an MRP Contact for service providers that have a relationship with more than one market participant.

Agenda Item 3: Market Renewal: Readiness Timelines (with materials)

- The IESO provided an overview of the documents, tools, and key activities that market participants can participate in to help them prepare for system and process changes prior to MRP Go-Live. Training and technical materials are and will continue to be posted on the MRP webpage. Members discussed the topic with the following comments:
 - A member asked if qTest is cloud-based or if it requires installation on their computers. The IESO confirmed that the tool is cloud-based and will be accessed using their Production gateway account similar to how they currently access other IESO applications.
 - After cutover, a member asked if both the new and old systems will run in parallel in case issues are encountered. The IESO is currently working through the details of its cutover plan, and confirmed that there will be a short window for the IESO to rollback its changes if the cutover was unsuccessful. The IESO will share details of the cutover plan with market participants in the coming months.
 - Members asked if there will be a communication process in place to inform all market participants on common issues found during testing, and which issues have been resolved or will persist after MRP Go-Live. The IESO agreed that this will be important and will be outlining the communication process in the MRP Test Plan which will be issued by the end of this quarter.
 - The IESO clarified that the sample settlement statements and data files to be provided to market participants in Q4 2024 are generic files that will contain mock data from a dummy organization. Some members expressed concern upon hearing this, as generic sample files were also provided during RSS testing and were found to be insufficient for market participant testing. The IESO reviewed this feedback, and has decided to publish settlement statements that reflect market participant data during end-to-end testing.

Agenda Item 4: Market Participant Training Strategy Update (with materials)

- The IESO provided a summary of the training strategy for market participants including the different training formats, the topics that will be covered, webpage updates and the timeline of when training materials will be delivered. Members did not have questions or concerns about the presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Market Participant Testing Update (with materials)

- IWG members were provided an overview of its testing strategy for the Market Renewal Program. The presentation included tips on how to prepare for testing, the different testing phases, and the materials that market participants can use today to advance some of their implementation activities. Following the presentation, members discussed the topic with the following comments:
 - Some members raised a concern that the period of market trials was scheduled over the summer months where most of their staff is anticipated to be away on vacation. The IESO acknowledges this challenge but has explained that they are unable to shift the schedule earlier as testing of the participant tools will still be in progress, and delaying market trials will result in the IESO's inability to meet its Go-Live target of May 2025. The Sandbox

environment will be available for market participants to perform exploratory testing in EMI and Dispatch Services, and will be given an opportunity to perform integrated testing of systems during the end-to-end testing phase.

- A member asked if a copy of their Production resources and users will be applied in the Sandbox environment, and if so, how regularly is the snapshot performed. The IESO is confirming this internally but still recommends for market participants to review and assign the right contact roles to their Sandbox users before testing commences next year.
- Concerns were raised over the terms stipulated in the qTest Form of Acknowledgement and Undertaking. The IESO is currently reviewing the feedback they received, and will respond back to individual members. If a market participant refuses to sign the license agreement for qTest, they will still be able to participate in MRP testing but will need to provide their test results by email as it is done today. The IESO encourages market participants to use qTest to reduce the administrative burden on their end, and to be notified right away when test scenarios are available for retest.
- Members sought clarity if Sandbox systems will be tested independently or if they will be tested when linked together. The IESO explained that systems will be partially connected during market trials in Q3/Q4 2024, while full integration occurs during end-to-end testing in Q1 2025. The IESO has taken the IWG's feedback into consideration, and refined its [presentation](#) for the October engagement webinar to better explain which applications will be connected at each phase of testing.
- A member asked if it is possible to accelerate the processing of data in the day-ahead market, pre-dispatch and real-time market timeframes. The IESO explained that this will not be possible based on how the calculation engines are designed, and doing so will not be advantageous to the market participant as it will not be a close representation of how the market participant operates in a real market.
- The group discussed the benefits and limitations of producing settlement statements during end-to-end testing. Members confirmed that they need settlement statements that reflect Sandbox transactions as their systems have checks in place that reconcile their settlement records with the schedules they received on a dispatch day. Additionally, they intend to use these statements to validate their interpretation of how new charge types will be calculated in the future market and to avoid submitting NODs due to incorrect assumptions they might implement in their own systems. The IESO will take this feedback into consideration and noted that market participants will still benefit from the generic sample statement and data files as not all charge types may be reported during end-to-end testing.
- Members asked if they will receive market power mitigation reports during end-to-end testing. The IESO explained that certain operational reports will continue to be published as they are made available to participants today, while other reports will only be available if a resource's dispatch data was mitigated.
- A member asked if temporarily updating reference levels will be one of the scenarios they will test during end-to-end testing. The IESO will confirm with the project team.

- The IESO was asked if the changes to the Financial Transmission Rights (FTR) system will be included as part of MRP testing. The IESO will follow-up with the project team to determine if this is covered by a different project.

Agenda item 6: Other Businesses, Next Steps, and Adjournment

IWG members were requested to provide test scenarios and market conditions that they would like the IESO to consider during end-to-end testing.

The next meeting will be rescheduled on December 6, 2023.

New Action Items:

- IESO to respond back to IWG members that had questions and concerns on the terms stated in the Form of Acknowledgment and Undertaking for qTest
- IESO to share details on how market participants can access test cases and submit their results if they decide not to use qTest
- IESO to identify the MRP Business Advisor(s) that agents or service providers should contact when they have questions, as some of them represent multiple types of participants.
- IESO to develop a communication plan that will inform market participants on issues encountered during testing, which defects have been corrected, and the issues that will persist at MRP Go-Live
- IESO to confirm if Production users and resource profiles will be copied over to Sandbox
- IESO to confirm if temporary changes to reference levels is included as one of the test scenarios during end-to-end testing
- IESO to confirm if changes to the FTR system will be part of testing for MRP next year