

Market Renewal Program Implementation Working Group

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Market Renewal Program (MRP) has been designed to modernize and address existing inefficiencies in Ontario's wholesale market, enabling it to support the integration of an increasingly diverse and decentralized mix of resources. These changes will deliver significant ratepayer savings and ensure continued reliable operations as the system becomes more diversified and complex. IESO has been working with vendors and participants to ensure MRP is positioned to deliver a refreshed set of market systems with the improvements that are now essential to support the transformation of Ontario's electricity system.

IESO and stakeholders are now focused on working through implementation details which include refining market rules and manuals and planning for the testing and training phase to ensure that market participants and IESO will be ready to implement the changes when IESO systems are ready to 'go-live.'

A new element of the IESO's engagement approach will be a Market Renewal Program Implementation Working Group (MRP IWG). The MRP IWG will contribute to the overall success of MRP by providing strategic advice on navigating implementation issues and market participant readiness, as the project moves closer to in-service.

The activities of the MRP IWG are guided by the IESO Engagement Principles. These Terms of Reference will outline the role of the MRP IWG and how it relates to the engagement processes.

Objectives and Scope

The main objective of the MRP IWG is to provide strategic advice and input to the IESO in support of MRP implementation activities. This working group is meant to augment the broader engagement discussions that will continue, as Market Rule and Market Manual sets are brought forward for review. The MRP IWG will take a consultative approach to its discussions by:

- Identifying and prioritizing issues related to the implementation of MRP
- Representing their various constituencies to provide advice and input on navigating time-sensitive or practical decisions relating to overall program and project management

- Providing insights and experience on the adoption of training and readiness activities
- Providing guidance on the development of specific examples and scenarios, together with other supporting materials, to aid participant education and training
- Monitoring the uptake, participation and preparation efforts of customers, and providing advice and strategies to reach and activate constituencies that have not engaged with implementation activities (if required)

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed as needed by the MRP IWG to ensure that the objectives and scope for the MRP IWG continue to serve the needs of the market participants and stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project.

Approach

It is expected that the MRP IWG will have bi-monthly meetings, as needed (in consultation with MRP IWG members). The materials supporting all MRP IWG meetings will be made available publicly along with a summary of the meetings.

The IESO recognizes the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders have the ability to monitor the progress on implementation activities. MRP IWG discussions will take place in two ways:

1. Public discussions: primarily in-person discussions, where feasible, with documentation shared to keep broader market participant community aware and informed of working group plans and activities
2. In-camera discussions: members to provide strategic advice on current and future plans for implementation activities

Organization and Administration of Meetings

Meeting authority and normal order of business:

1. An IESO representative from the MRP team will chair the meetings.
2. An IESO representative from the MRP team will act as the facilitator for the meetings.
3. The IESO will endeavor to provide all meeting agendas and support material one week in advance of the meeting.
4. The IESO will take meeting notes including actionable items and their resolution. The IESO will circulate meeting summaries to all MRP IWG members and post the summaries publicly.
5. The IESO will coordinate attendance through meeting invitations. These invitations are intended for members, or suitable delegate, if required. Meetings will be held in person as much as possible.

Composition of the MRP IWG

The MRP IWG will be chaired by a representative of the IESO. The Working Group membership will be comprised of a maximum of 12 members that reflect a balanced representation of different types of market participants that are directly engaged in implementing MRP's changes.

Members are expected to be committed to providing advice that will contribute to the overall success of MRP and to help prepare market participants for the launch of the renewed market.

Implementation Working Group members are expected to be able to commit the time and resources necessary to effectively support and contribute to the work of the MRP IWG. Expectations for members include:

- Regular attendance and active participation in scheduled meetings
- Actively provide feedback and strategic advice during meetings and/or in writing
- Review information/materials

The IESO may make changes to the working group membership at its sole discretion to ensure a balanced representation of skills, subject matter, and sectors on the IWG as the project evolves. As a working group, without formal decision-making power, decisions regarding membership will be made by the IESO. Delegates will be permitted on an occasional basis, with notice sent in advance to the Chair of the IWG.

Communications

1. Meeting materials, information and updates for the MRP IWG will be shared with stakeholders and the broader community through the MRP IWG webpage on the IESO website and in the MRP newsletter, as warranted.
2. The webpage will include the MRP IWG Terms of Reference, meeting agendas, formal materials and meeting notes, if applicable.
3. Information provided through the above mentioned methods is considered public and may be shared freely.