

Stakeholder Engagement Plan SE-11

Migration of Transmission Rights Auction Application into a Web Portal



I. Introduction and Background

Over the next 3-5 years, the IESO will proceed with a large-scale program to enhance existing web-based tools and processes. The most significant component of the IESO's web enhancement will be deployment of web portal technology which will integrate all IESO web-based technologies, including the current Market Participant Interface. The IESO will be moving applications into the portal infrastructure as new applications are developed or existing applications are replaced. The first Market Participant application to be moved into the portal is the Transmission Rights Auction system.

This Stakeholder Plan only relates to the migration of the Transmission Rights Auction application into the Web Portal which is planned for June, 2006. Additional information on the portal project, including past consultation, can be found on the IT Standing Committee home page at:

http://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/consult/it_meetings.asp

While there will be no functional changes to the Transmission Rights Auction application, the new Transmission Rights page will offer market participants a one-stop shop for information related to the auction - such as links to reports, calendars, announcements and other related data. Once migrated, the Transmission Rights Auction system will only be available through the Web Portal and it will be decommissioned from the current Market Participant Interface.

To aid in the transition to the Web Portal, the Transmission Rights Auction user interface will be made available in the Sandbox environment for training and familiarization purposes prior to the implementation into Production. The implementation schedule can be found in section V.

Transmission Rights Auction users accessing the Transmission Rights Auction application through the Web Portal will require a new digital certificate (version 7). The current version of digital certificate (version 6) that participants now use to access the existing Transmission Rights Auction application (via the Market Participant Interface) will not operate within the portal. Conversely, only the current version of digital certificate (version 6) will operate within the Market Participant Interface, thereby requiring Transmission Rights participants who continue to access information within the current Market Participant Interface or submit real-time bids and offers to have both versions of certificates.

The IESO plan to upgrade the existing Market Participant Interface in September, 2006 which will allow both the newer certificate (version 7) and current certificate (version 6) to access the Market Participant Interface.

This requirement for two certificates will depend on the role of individual users within companies. For example, if one individual only submits offers for the Transmission Rights Auctions, then they would only need the new certificate (version 7) to access the Transmission Rights Auction application via the portal and could discontinue use of the current certificate (version 6). Another individual may be responsible for submitting bids or offers in the real-time energy markets, and they would only need the current certificate (version 6) to access the Market Participant Interface and would not need the new certificate (version 7).

The IESO anticipates that training on using any new interface within the portal would be minimal and would be provided by the current IESO Training and Customer Relations groups.

Typically, few participants use the Sandbox for testing and training, therefore, the IESO will need to be pro-active to encourage participation. The IESO will work with Market Participants to assist them in testing the new system in the Sandbox environment, in order to minimize potential problems in the real-time auction.

II. Stakeholders

Only authorised Market Participants participating in the Transmission Rights Auction are affected. This affects approximately 25 Market Participants and about 50 individual users who currently are in possession of an IESO issued digital certificate and are active in the Transmission Rights Auction. (Typically, participants in the Transmission Rights markets are traders, settlement and finance staff). In addition, IT staff of these Market Participants will also have an interest in this change.

III. Stakeholder Engagement Goals and Objectives

Goal

The goal of this stakeholder plan is to provide participants the opportunity to provide feedback to the IESO on the impact on their business of implementation of the Transmission Rights Auction application into the Web Portal.

Objective

1. To provide stakeholders the opportunity to review and provide feedback on this stakeholder plan and on implementation impacts on their business e.g., Can a user function using both versions of certificates for a 3-6 month duration?;
2. To provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide alternatives that would reduce any impacts on their business;
3. To minimize adverse effects on market participant operations and processes to the maximum extent possible.

IV. Stakeholder Engagement Approach and Methods

The stakeholder engagement approach will be feedback — with request for stakeholder review and written feedback. The implementation of this stakeholder engagement plan will be in accordance with the IESO's approved stakeholder engagement principles.

The stakeholder engagement method to be employed will be a web-based posting with a request for written comments via e-mail. An e-mail communication will be sent to those Market Participants who are authorised with the IESO in the Transmission Rights market to advise them of this Stakeholder Plan and the opportunity for feedback.

Web-based postings provide all interested stakeholders with an efficient low-cost method to be informed of the proposed changes with the opportunity to communicate their views via e-mail to the IESO (stakeholder.engagement@ieso.ca). All stakeholder input, including dissenting views, will be posted on the IESO website.

All feedback from stakeholders will be considered prior to implementation of the Transmission Rights Auction application into the portal. This stakeholder plan provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to communicate their views and positions directly to the IESO in advance of any implementation.

Feedback will be provided on all stakeholder comments and how this input was considered, and the results of the consultation will be posted on the IESO website.

All public manuals and technical documents would be updated to reflect any changes. Changes to these documents will follow the usual change control practices.

V. Decision Making Process

Stakeholder Engagement Schedule	
Activity	Target Date
1. Solicit feedback from Transmission Rights participants on any implementation impacts on their business. Post Stakeholder Plan for feedback.	January 27
2. Feedback deadline from Stakeholders.	February 15
3. Posting IESO response to stakeholder input.	February 17
4. Issuing of new certificates for Sandbox portal.	March
5. Updating manual and technical interface documents.	March and April

Stakeholder Engagement Schedule	
Activity	Target Date
6. Sandbox available for testing Transmission Rights application within the Web Portal.	On or before April 27
7. Issuing of new certificates for Production portal (if different from those issued for Sandbox).	May
8. Transmission Rights application within web portal live in Production.	June
9. Market Participant Interface enhanced to use current and newer versions of digital certificates.	September

Process Evaluation

Stakeholders will be provided the opportunity to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the process in achieving stated objectives.