

# Ontario Smart Grid Forum

## Ontario's Smart Grid Forum Notes of Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, March 9, 2010**  
Time: 09:00 to 12:00  
Location: IESO Minto Plaza Office, Main Boardroom  
655 Bay Street, Suite 410  
Toronto, ON

### Forum Members Attending:

David Collie	Electrical Safety Authority
Wayne Smith	Hydro One
Paul Murphy	IESO
Don Tench	IESO
Jim Huntingdon	Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro
Brian Hewson	Ontario Energy Board
Dan McGillivray	Ontario Centres of Excellence
Paul Shervill	Ontario Power Authority
Ivano Labricciosa	Toronto Hydro
Brian Kelley	TransCanada
Jatin Nathwani	University of Waterloo (by telephone)

### Working Group Members Attending:

David Curtis	Hydro One
Raed Abdullah	Hydro Ottawa (by telephone)
Edward Arlitt	IESO
Annamaria Cross	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
Usman Syed	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (by telephone)
Lisa Dignard-Bailey	Natural Resources Canada (by telephone)
Russ Houldin	Ontario Energy Board (by telephone)
John Mulrooney	PowerStream
Joshua Wong	Toronto Hydro

**NOTE:** These minutes are appended with a cumulative list of outstanding Forum Action Items

### 09:00 – call to order, attendance, and confirmation of the agenda

The Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that the Forum would (after reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting) first discuss item # 4 on the agenda (“Smart Grid Opportunities Fund”) followed by items 2 and 3.

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### Agenda Item # 1 – Minutes of previous meetings:

#### Minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Smart Grid Forum:

Having received no further comments to the February 9<sup>th</sup> minutes by the previously assigned deadline of **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** the minutes were declared as final.

#### Minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Smart Grid Forum:

The draft minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Forum were tabled with an **ACTION ITEM** to provide comments by **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** (no comments to these minutes were tabled during today's meeting).

### Agenda Item # 4: "Ontario Smart Grid Opportunities Fund"

Dan McGillivray (OCE) spoke to a draft, high-level letter which was circulated to Forum members prior to the meeting. The letter was drafted at a sufficiently high level to be potentially submitted to the Premier or other members of the Ontario Cabinet (see distribution item). Dan outlined that he had discussed the matter with Sean Conway and they felt that an amended version of the letter should probably be sent within the next couple of weeks before the 2010 Ontario budget is issued. He also pointed out that he did not see the Ontario Smart Grid Opportunities Fund mentioned in the Speech from the Throne delivered on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Annamaria Cross (MEI) suggested that the new Deputy Minister of Energy and Infrastructure should be briefed about the fund and smart grid before such a letter is sent. She also mentioned that Ministry of Finance staff have been made aware that an application for the allocation of the Fund will be forthcoming, but at this point this will only occur during the 2010 Ontario fiscal cycle (i.e. after March 31<sup>st</sup>).

A member suggested that in general, the letter should not give the appearance of cross-subsidization of the rate base, or this may have the opposite-intended effect of slowing down efforts by the LDCs.

Another member commented that if we could somehow get assurance that the Fund will in fact be persevered in the upcoming budget then there is no urgency to send the letter at this time.

The Chair summarized the discussion and suggested that perhaps the best course of action would be to hold-off on sending any such letter until MEI staff have signalled the appropriate time to do so. In the meantime, perhaps a less formal communication could be sent to the Deputy Minister.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ministry Staff and the Chair will coordinate the timing of any such communications between the Forum and the Ontario Government regarding the Smart Grid Opportunities Fund.

### Agenda Item # 2: "Smart Grid Roles and Responsibilities"

Edward Arlitt (IESO Staff) walked the group through slides 1-15 of a revised copy of the presentation "*Roles and Responsibilities in the Context of Ontario's Smart Grid*" (see distribution item). Edward premised the conversation by stating that some of the slides were annotated with comments from the March 2<sup>nd</sup> SGF Working Group and the March 4<sup>th</sup> Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Working Group. However, neither group maintains a formal set of minutes, nor have they provided any formal advice as a group to the Forum.

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During the presentation, many comments were discussed and debated amongst Forum members:

- It was suggested that perhaps as a group, the Forum needs to agree which smart grid principles defy further assignment of roles and responsibilities.
- A member suggested that many accountabilities rest with the government and the regulator. With this in mind, perhaps other agencies could be crossed-off the list of accountabilities in order to sharpen the question as to which organizations bore the ultimate accountability for each topic area.
- A member suggested that the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure has sole authority to delegate responsibilities to various organizations within the electricity sector.
- Another member observed that the Ontario Energy Board is in the best position to cover-off any 'gaps' in the existing legislation through its various regulatory instruments – and that it has done a good job at this in the past.
- A member observed that the principles themselves are critically important to the OEB in their deliberations on specific issues, but perhaps the number principles can be pared down from their current number (24).
- The group then examined the principle of “interoperability” as an example (see Appendix slides to the presentation) to get a feel for the issues at hand. Specifically, the group walked through the specific example of Electric Vehicle charging stations and how they would work from an interoperability standpoint. During this example, several issues were raised:
  - Who would be responsible for determining cost recovery?
  - Would pilot programs be needed first, and if so, who would be responsible?
  - Which organization would be responsible at each of the layers of interoperability? (see also, February 22<sup>nd</sup> presentation regarding the 8 NIST layers of interoperability)
  - How does Ontario’s large array of LDCs affect responsibility over interoperability issues?

{11:00 to 11:05 – break}

Upon return from the break, the Chair summarized the situation so far, and suggested that the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure should take the next steps using the Responsibilities, Accountabilities, Consulted and Information (‘RACI’) matrix as it stands so far (see appendix slides to the March 9<sup>th</sup> presentation). The Chair also suggested two action items for the SGF working group as follows:

**ACTION ITEM:** The SGF Working Group should identify those principles that are truly unique to the smart grid where new roles and responsibilities might need to be defined.

**ACTION ITEM:** The SGF Working Group should identify those principles where it feels that that accountabilities for that topic are too diffuse (based on the entries in the RACI matrix) and make recommendations as to how this might be rectified.

In addition the Chair issued a further call to Forum members: **ACTION ITEM:** Forum members to review the RACI matrix in light of today’s discussion and convey any further comments to IESO staff.

Update from the Chair Regarding the Gridwise Conference:

The Chair mentioned that the Smart Grid Forum was approached by a U.S. group (“Gridwise”) via the Canadian Embassy in Washington to provide potential speakers to an upcoming conference. To this end, the Chair thanked Hydro One for agreeing to provide a speaker and also the OCE for suggesting some Ontario-based companies as well. The Chair conveyed that Canadian embassy staff were very

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grateful for the assistance received from the Forum in regards to this effort and that there may be potential for further dialogue in the near future.

### Update regarding Ontario Privacy Commissioner:

Don Tench mentioned that the Officer of the Ontario Privacy Commissioner has been approached for the purpose of having the Commissioner speak to the Forum at a future meeting date. The response from her office thus far has been quite positive and Don was quite optimistic that she might be able to join the Forum at its next meeting in April (confirmation and further details to follow).

### Agenda Item # 3: “Ontario Smart Grid Forum draft work plan for 2010”

Edward Arlitt (IESO Staff) walked the group through a slide presentation entitled “2010 Smart Grid Forum Work Plan Development” (see distribution item for further details). The Forum discussed some of the high-level questions presented in the slide deck regarding various current and future work tasks that the Forum might undertake.

At the outset, a Forum member suggested that ongoing education of the Forum regarding specific issues remains and ongoing task in addition to those presented in the slide deck. On this point, a member further suggested that the Forum needs someone to help focus the Forum’s attention on specific aspects of standards development that are pertinent to issues-at-hand here in Ontario.

### Slide # 4 – CEA Corporate Partners Committee:

(see also, distribution item: “*Additional Nominations for CEA Corporate Partners Committee – March 3, 2010*”)

- A member suggested that a “load aggregator” category be added to the additional nominations list, but did not specifically suggest any Ontario-based companies that might be added under that category. **ACTION ITEM:** Forum members were asked to make any further suggestions for additions to the list of *Additional Nominations for CEA Corporate Partners Committee* as soon as possible.
- Wayne Smith (Hydro One) mentioned that he spoke to the CEA about giving special status to Ontario companies to allow them to participate in the CEA Corporate Partners Committee without having to become full-fledged members of the CEA. **ACTION ITEM:** Wayne Smith to seek positive confirmation from the CEA that additional Ontario nominees for the Corporate Partners Committee will not have become full-fledged members of the CEA.
- Forum members then considered potential work tasks for the CEA Corporate Partners Committee, which included the following suggestions:
  - Responding to surveys for the purposes of developing the Forum’s annual report. **ACTION ITEM:** The Forum Working Group should suggest what survey questions might be posed to the CEA Corporate Partners Committee for the purposes of developing the Forum’s next annual report.
  - Dealing with specific interoperability issues
  - Two-way sharing of information between companies and LDC’s regarding products and services.
  - Become a showcase of Ontario capabilities in the field of smart grids.

### Slide # 5 – Smart Grid Opportunities Fund:

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Forum members generally agreed that their role should be consistent with that put forward in the paper put together by Dan McGillivray (OCE). See notes to Agenda item # 4 above.

### Slide # 6 – Influence on Global Developments:

- A member suggested that Forum members need to be educated on specific standards development issues and that while the Forum may continue to monitor them, they should not “dive deep” on specific issues. On this point, Jatin Nathwani (University of Waterloo) suggested that standards for Electric Vehicle charging stations was an important one for the Forum to Monitor. **ACTION ITEM:** Jatin Nathwani to report back to the Forum on the salient points of emerging standards for Electric Vehicle charging stations in order to support a future discussion on the matter.
- A member suggested that instead of trying to “influence” standards development in the international arena (which wasn’t a realistic objective in his view), the Forum should instead provide advice as to how Ontario should move forward in various areas of standards adoption.
- Another member suggested that perhaps the Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) was in a better position to organize this effort and provide guidance on what issues to focus on.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The SGF Working Group should recommend smart grid interoperability standards-related issues that the Forum should focus on.

### Slide # 6 – Annual Report of the Ontario Smart Grid Forum:

- After some deliberation the Chair summarized the discussion that the next Annual Report of the Ontario Smart Grid Forum should generally be a smaller report that focuses on the current state of the industry and identify current and potential barriers to the development of smart grids in Ontario
- **ACTION ITEM:** Edward Arlitt (IESO staff) to draft an outline of the 2010 Annual Report of the Ontario Smart Grid Forum for consideration by the Forum.

### Slide # 9 – Meeting dates:

- The Chair suggested now that Smart Grids Principles development work was nearing completion, the Forum should return to a monthly meeting schedule. No objections were raised to this suggestion.

### Next Meeting:

Morning of Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (details to follow).

**12:00 p.m. – Adjournment.**

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## APPENDIX 'A' S.G.F. OPEN Action Items as of March 9, 2010

Action Item	Date Assigned	Assigned To	Status
Edward Arlitt (IESO staff) to draft an outline of the 2010 Annual Report of the Ontario Smart Grid Forum for consideration by the Forum.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Edward Arlitt	OPEN
The SGF Working Group should recommend smart grid interoperability standards-related issues that the Forum should focus on	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	SGF Working Group	OPEN
Jatin Nathwani to report back to the Forum on the salient points of emerging standards for Electric Vehicle charging stations in order to support a future discussion on the matter.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Jatin Nathwani	OPEN
The Forum Working Group should suggest what survey questions might be posed to the CEA Corporate Partners Committee for the purposes of developing the Forum's next annual report.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	SGF Working Group	OPEN
Wayne Smith to seek positive confirmation from the CEA that additional Ontario nominees for the Corporate Partners Committee will not have become full-fledged members of the CEA.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Wayne Smith	OPEN
Forum members were asked to make any further suggestions for additions to the list of Additional Nominations for CEA Corporate Partners Committee as soon as possible.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010 and Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2010	Forum Members	OPEN
Forum members to review the RACI matrix in light of March 9th discussion and convey any further comments to IESO staff.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Forum Members	OPEN
The SGF Working Group should identify those principles that are truly unique to the smart grid where new roles and responsibilities might need to be defined.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	SGF Working Group	OPEN
The SGF Working Group should identify those principles where it feels that that accountabilities for that topic are too diffuse (based on the entries in the RACI matrix) and make recommendations as to how this might be rectified.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	SGF Working Group	OPEN
Ministry Staff and the Chair will coordinate the timing of any such communications between the Forum and the Ontario Government regarding the Smart Grid Opportunities Fund.	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Ministry Staff and Forum Chair	OPEN
Examine the <i>IESO Market Rules</i> form the standpoint of whether or not they present any barriers to participation of load aggregators, and scheduling service providers in the wholesale market or otherwise conflict with the smart grid interoperability framework.	Feb. 9, 2010	IESO Staff	OPEN