

Follow-up:

Action Items Assigned to the Working Group by the Forum

Background:

The following action items have been previously assigned to the Ontario Smart Grid Forum Working Group by the Forum:

- 1) The SGF Working Group should recommend smart grid interoperability standards-related issues that the Forum should focus on.
- 2) The SGF 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.

This document summarizes the feedback from the Working Group regarding these Items as garnered from their meeting on April 7th and subsequent conference call on April 15th.

Action Item 1: *"The SGF Working Group should recommend smart grid interoperability standards-related issues that the Forum should focus on."*

The Working Group initially tackled this issue with the objective of discussing general criteria for getting to such a list – as opposed to arbitrarily choosing specific issues at this point.

First question - is such a list warranted?

On this point, the group felt that there may be some areas where the Forum may wish to get engaged. One member pointed to the example of the implementation of smart meters in Ontario ahead of emerging standards for communications, security and upgradeability as an example of an interoperability issue with an Ontario-specific interest.

Another comment: In general terms, legacy issues could be important in any areas where Ontario's involvement in smart grid deployment precedes mature, internationally-accepted standards.

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Is the Forum correct in asserting that an Ontario-based advocacy body is required with respect to interoperability issues?

- It was pointed out that the Forum has members that are engaged in the Canadian National Committee of the Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) - both of which present the opportunity for future advocacy if necessary.
- Another idea suggested was to use the *Annual Report of the Forum* as a potential vehicle to create industry awareness of specific interoperability issues that may be of interest to Ontario.

What makes an Interoperability Issue an Ontario Smart Grid Forum issue?

On this question some of the suggested criteria might include:

1. Does the interoperability issue run contrary to a specific Ontario policy?
2. Does the interoperability issue present a problem with respect to a previous legacy technological selection decisions already made by the Ontario electricity sector?
3. Are there specific timing issues with respect to the interoperability standard and Ontario-specific implementation timelines?

Additional suggestions/observations:

- The Forum could send specific questions or issues to the Working Group to aid in the screening process.
- The Forum (with the assistance of the Working Group) could identify specific standards that might aid the coordination efforts that the Government and the OEB might ultimately be held accountable for.
- Interoperability issues can aid the OEB's review of specific smart grid plans, and conversely, the OEB's review process may be a source of specific interoperability issues that need to be examined by the Forum.

Action Item # 2: *"The SGF 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"*

- The group generally agreed with the proposed outline prepared as a separate distribution item (see also, *"Draft Outline for the Ontario Smart Grid Forum 2010 Annual Report"*).
- A member commented that we are essentially looking for constructive suggestions from the private sector as to how Ontario might better foster the development of smart grids and be conducive to innovation and investment.

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- It was suggested that the report itself should tackle the question of the role of third parties in providing various services (e.g. Aggregators) and that questions should be posed to the Corporate Partners to gauge their opinions on this.
- It was suggested that some of the private sector perspectives on Ontario's conduciveness to smart grid development should come from out-of-province if possible.
- A member suggested that perhaps the report could also showcase a success story of an Ontario-based company.

Action Items 3 and 4: *"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" and "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."*

- The Feedback from the Working Group is summarized in a separate PowerPoint presentation entitled, *"Roles and Responsibilities in the context of Ontario's Smart Grid - Revisions from Ontario Smart Grid Forum WORKING GROUP"*

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