

OEA Smart Grid Corporate Partners Committee: Current Issues & Priorities

The Smart Grid Fund

- a year and a half since announcement of the Fund, yet no program is in place
- funding of pilots and support for relatively new and small Ontario firms is essential if Ontario is to reap the economic development and employment benefits of its early-mover position in the smart grid
- rules must be equitable – “fair and equal” access to funding for all participants and all types of SG initiatives

Time-of-Use (TOU) pricing: Differentials between on-peak and off-peak

- are the differentials great enough to influence behaviour? i.e., need for better market-based incentives
- better information to ratepayers as to how to use and benefit from TOU
- would stimulate development and deployment of home energy management systems

Roles and responsibilities in Ontario

- need to clarify roles and responsibilities of the various provincial agencies – MEI, OEB, IESO, LDCs, etc.
- need for consistent messaging about the smart grid, what it is, and its implementation

Streamlining of Approvals Processes

- this would be facilitated by clarification of roles and responsibilities (Item c., above)

Electric Vehicle integration

- need for standards and “roadmap” infrastructure and systems to monitor and control EV charging (i.e. “smart charging”)
- smart charging would moderate demand for electricity by EVs to be aligned with periods of excess electricity supply, using both load management and storage services
- nevertheless, EVs will mean significant additional load, which needs to be planned for

Microgrids and Microgrid Energy Management Systems

- access to smart meter data in real-time is critical to develop energy hub management systems and other microgrid management systems.

Industry standards

- seek development of harmonized, consistent North American standards
- open access, open codes
- development of common accessible standards will ultimately lower costs

Perceived Barriers to Smart Grid Development

Adverse design of consumer incentives for various public programs

Lack of competition and market openness

Privacy and data ownership issues

- single consistent technology platform for gathering and analyzing data
- need for privacy rules and guidelines

Lack of access to real-time smart meter data

- 3rd party access to data, with the appropriate privacy safeguards and provisions for authorization from the consumer who ultimately owns the data, on the same basis as LDCs