

# Ontario Smart Grid Forum

## Ontario Smart Grid Forum Notes of Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
Time: 09:00 to 1:00  
Location: IESO Minto Plaza Office, Main Boardroom  
655 Bay Street, Suite 410  
Toronto, ON

### Forum members attending:

Paul Murphy	IESO (Forum Chair)
Wayne Smith	Hydro One
Norm Fraser	Hydro Ottawa
David McFadden	Ontario Centres of Excellence
Jon Norman	Ontario Ministry of Energy

### Corporate Partners Committee members attending:

Shelley Lewis,	Chair,
Ron Dizey	Vice-Chair

### Working Group Members Attending:

Bob Singh	Hydro One (for David Curtis)
Raed Abdullah	Hydro Ottawa (by phone)
Edward Arlitt	IESO
Sasha Sud	Ontario Power Authority
John Mulrooney	PowerStream
Richard Ford	Toronto Hydro

See **Appendix 'A'** for a cumulative list of open Forum action items.

### **09:10 – call to order**

#### **Agenda Item # 1: Previous SGF Minutes**

##### FINAL minutes of the **May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011** meeting of the Smart Grid Forum:

The minutes of the **May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011** meeting were tabled as final.

##### DRAFT Minutes of the **June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011** meeting of the Smart Grid Forum:

The draft minutes of the **June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011** meeting were tabled with a comment deadline of Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. No amendments were suggested at the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item # 2: Review of Smart Grid Forum Recommendation Tracking Log**

{see also, "*Smart Grid Forum Recommendation Tracking Log*" version 8.0}

The meeting began by reviewing version 8.0 of the "*Smart Grid Forum Recommendation Tracking Log*." The tracking log has been recently appended with the recommendations from Forum's second report,

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“Modernizing Ontario’s Electricity System: Next Steps” and overhauled in order to better track the activities of the Forum, the Working Group and the Corporate Partners Committee, with respect to each recommendation.

The Forum reviewed selected recommendations and portions of the tracking log (note recommendations listed below correspond to the numbering system in the tracking log – see tracking log for further details):

### Recommendations N1/N2 (privacy)

- During the discussion of these recommendations a Forum member suggested, and it was agreed, that the Forum should follow-up with the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner after the Corporate Partners Committee has had an opportunity to further examine this issue.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The Forum will undertake to invite the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner to meet with them to discuss the emerging smart grid privacy framework that will stem from the recommendations being developed by the Corporate Partners Committee on privacy and 3<sup>rd</sup> party data access.

### Recommendations N3/N4 (data access)

- It was pointed out that the Corporate Partners Committee intends to bring a specific, recommended course of action to the Forum at a later date regarding these particular recommendations.
- A Forum member stressed that we need a structured approach for the release of data to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties and that the OEB won’t necessarily solve the detailed issues surrounding this need.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding the obligations of the LDC to facilitate data access – similar to the issues raised during the Forum’s review of the NAESB document on this topic.<sup>1</sup>
- A member commented that we need to be careful to ensure that privacy issues don’t over-shadow the commercial opportunities in this area. The retail experiences in Ontario serve as a cautionary tale in that regard.

### Table 4 recommendations.

- During the review of Table 4, it was agreed to move recommendation C4<sup>2</sup> back to Table 2 (active 2009 recommendations) as Forum members felt that this one should continue to be actively monitored.

### Table 3 recommendations.

- During the discussion of the storage recommendations a member raised the question as to whether or not LDC’s are allowed to own storage assets.
- No changes were proposed for this table.

### Deletion of inactive recommendations

- During the discussion, it was proposed that inactive recommendations be deleted from the log entirely, as the tracking log should over time be pared down to focus the Forum’s attention on the most pressing issues at-hand.

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<sup>1</sup> see also, minutes of June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation C4: “Utilities should develop their proposed smart grid investments as part of their capital plans.”

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## **Agenda Item # 3: Report Back from the Working Group**

{see also, “*Report back from the Working Group*” support presentation}

Edward Arlitt (IESO Staff) presented the report back from the Working Group. The report covered the following topic areas stemming from 3 recommendations from the Second Report of the Forum:

- Energy Storage Framework for Ontario
- Electric Vehicle information requirements
- Electric Vehicle charging station information requirements

Energy storage:

The presentation began with a review of the Working Group’s proposal for the potential scope of an energy storage framework for Ontario as envisioned in the Forum’s report (see also, presentation). During the discussion of this portion of the presentation the following comments were made:

- The framework should include using storage assets for substation loading relief.
- A member asked how storage opportunities might be exploited by LDCs. To this, another member countered that any framework which forced LDCs to play in energy markets is likely not an attractive option. Another member added however, that this definitely would be a useful role for commercial players and that we need to focus on opening new markets for these services.
- A member suggested that if Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) contracts accounted for the time value of energy produced by distributed generators, they would have already encouraged much more storage than we currently have today.
- The framework should have geographic incentives to make sure that storage is being encouraged in the right areas of the electricity system.
- A Forum member expressed his support for the Working Group’s proposition that all types of storage benefits should be sought by the framework.
- There was an extensive discussion regarding the role of LDCs with respect to distributed generation. One member suggested that perhaps the commercial model for the utility, EPCOR might apply, though this was debated by various members for and against such a notion.

Electric vehicles:

The next portion of the Working Group presentation was devoted to the two electric vehicle recommendations contained in the Forum’s second report. During the discussion of this portion of the presentation the following comments were made:

- A member suggested that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has very strict rules regarding the disclosure of vehicle registration data and that it will be a complex process to realize the Forum’s recommendations in this area.
- There was extensive discussion about information regarding charging stations. A member pointed out that there are existing mechanisms in place today for reporting necessary

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information to the LDC's and these existing channels should be expanded to accumulate charging station information.

- Harmonics is a potential issue with charging stations and helps build the case for why LDCs need this information in the first place.
- A member voiced his opinion that LDCs should definitely not own or install charging stations themselves – in response to a suggestion that had been made by some Working Group members<sup>3</sup>.

### **Agenda Item # 4: Report back from the Corporate Partners Committee**

Shelley Lewis Chair of the Corporate Partners Committee began by mentioning that [Temporal Power](#) has now become the latest member<sup>4</sup> of the Corporate Partners Committee. Shelley then went on to provide an update regarding the work some of the CPC sub-committees:

The Long-term Technical Architecture sub-committee is currently developing its purpose, scope and options for Ontario Industry. The sub-committee is highly cognizant of international developments in emerging interoperability standards and duplication of other efforts currently taking place.

At the next meeting of the Forum, it is anticipated that both the Sandbox sub-committee<sup>5</sup> and the Long-term Technical Architecture sub-committee will be in a position to provide a preliminary report.

The Use Cases sub-committee is considering a follow-up meeting with Ontario Energy Board staff to discuss next steps for the use cases (see also, minutes of the June 21st Forum meeting).

Shelley also mentioned that storage is a potential topic of interest with the CPC, and future discussions may take place as to how best to approach the topic.

The CPC also considered security as a potential topic of interest at its recent meeting, but felt that this was not the best area to make a contribution at this time, given the breadth of the subject and the immediate topics of interest that the Committee was already dealing with. However, the Committee is not ignoring the topic either – and Shelley pointed out that the Committee recently received a presentation regarding the legal aspects of security and privacy.

{11:30}

### **Agenda Item # 5: Progress Reports: i) Ontario Ministry of Energy Smart Grid Fund; and, ii) Ontario Centres of Excellence, Call for Expressions of Interest regarding the Special Energy Fund**

OCE Special Energy Fund {see also, OCE status update slide}:

David McFadden (OCE) provided the Forum with an update on the latest status of the fund, which originally received 41 potential proposals. At present, 16 proposals of interest are currently out for peer review by August 26<sup>th</sup>. This peer review will be followed by an external review panel. The OCE is optimistic both on the potential results, and the amount of financial leverage that that these projects may yield.

Ontario Ministry of Energy Smart Grid Fund:

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<sup>3</sup> Note: This was not a unanimous opinion of the Working Group either, as indicated in the presentation.

<sup>4</sup> Represented by Temporal Power CEO, Cam Carver

<sup>5</sup> Relates to the Forum's report recommendation regarding the establishment of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) test bed facility.

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Jon Norman (Ministry of Energy) indicated that 31 project proposals were invited to submitted business cases as part of the second stage of the Fund's selection process and that the fund is currently over-subscribed. Fund applicants represent a broad spectrum of both large and small companies. The next stage of the review process is now underway, whereby the proposals are subject to both a technical and financial review. As previously discussed in the Forum, there is a significant emphasis on economic development, job creation, and Ontario-based content. At present, a potential date for announcing funding awards has not yet been set.

### **Agenda Item # 6: SmartGrid Canada Update**

{see also, IESO staff presentation and SmartGrid Canada report, "*Smart Grid Priorities for Canada in 2011*"}

Edward Arlitt (IESO staff) provided a brief presentation on the recent activities of SmartGrid Canada and their upcoming convention in Toronto on October 24-26:

<http://www.smartgrid2011.com/>

At present, Jon Norman is the only Forum member listed as a guest speaker at this conference. A Forum member commented that we should use the opportunity to promote the Forum's report as well.

The presentation also provided the highlights from the SmartGrid Canada report, "*Smart Grid Priorities for Canada in 2011*" – which included a number of recommendations which overlap on the Ontario Smart Grid Forum's activities and recommendations from their own report. This prompted an extensive discussion regarding the Forum's involvement with both the upcoming conference and the SmartGrid Canada organization in general. Some of the comments made during this discussion were as follows:

- The situation has changed since the Forum last looked at this back in April, as SmartGrid Canada is now clearly courting more active involvement from organizations in central Canada.
- One member suggested we need to engage on this more actively and assert Ontario's leadership role that we already have. Another member countered with an opposite viewpoint however, and maintained that a national plan would ultimately fail given the uneven levels of smart grid activity across the various Canadian provinces. It was further argued that this was not perhaps the best use of the Forum's time.
- A member suggested that SmartGrid Canada has the international standing as Canada's national smart grid body to help sell Ontario internationally.

**OUTCOME:** It was agreed that the Forum would continue to monitor how active SmartGrid Canada proves to be in carrying out its national recommendations and the Forum would return to this discussion at a later date. In the meantime, all Forum and Corporate Partner Committee members would acquire the following action item to help coordinate the Forum's assessment:

**ACTION ITEM:** All Forum members should advise the rest of the Forum via IESO staff, regarding their activities, and membership status with respect to SmartGrid Canada on an ongoing basis.

### **Agenda Item # 6: Interoperability Standards update**

{see also, "*Interoperability Developments*" support presentation}

Edward Arlitt (IESO staff) provided a brief presentation regarding the recent ruling by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding their July 19<sup>th</sup> ruling which largely places the emphasis on the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) and their catalogue of interoperability standards. The ruling potentially serves as a valuable

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lesson for Ontario and any regulatory constructs that might emerge in this province regarding interoperability standards. The presentation, also provided an update on the activities of the Canadian National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) which was specifically named in the Forum's recommendation in its second report.

There was a brief discussion regarding the next steps in this area. One member suggested that perhaps the best place to enforce the use of interoperability standards, is by the LDC's as part of their RFP processes for procuring smart grid products and services. Another member posed the question how we should make use of such standards, to which another member suggested that the best approach is to wait from them to become available and informally adopt them. A Forum member also reiterated that the Forum itself must continue to stay abreast of these developments.

### **Agenda Item # 7: Roundtable Updates from Forum members**

{end of meeting time allocation – no reports given}

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – **via web conference only.**

**1:00 – Adjournment.**

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## APPENDIX 'A'

### S.G.F. OPEN Action Items as of August 9<sup>th</sup> 2011

**See also:**

- Work plan of the SGF Working Group tabled at the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting as part of the report back from the Working Group Presentation
- *Smart Grid Forum Recommendation Tracking Log*

Action Item	Date Assigned	Assigned To	Target Completion	Status
The Forum will undertake to invite the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner to meet with them to discuss the emerging smart grid privacy framework that will stem from the recommendations being developed by the Corporate Partners Committee on privacy and 3 <sup>rd</sup> party data access.	Aug. 9, 2011	Forum and CPC	TBD	OPEN
All Forum members should advise the rest of the Forum via IESO staff, regarding their activities, and membership status with respect to SmartGrid Canada on an ongoing basis.	Aug. 9, 2011	Forum and CPC	Ongoing	OPEN
Examine the <i>IESO Market Rules</i> from 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	TBD	OPEN

**CLOSED Action Items:**

As of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 closed action items are no longer listed in the minutes as per the agreement reached at the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Forum meeting. The removal of an open action item from the above list constitutes the completion of that item.