

Final Engagement Summary Report

Date: September 2024

IESO Market and Planning Data Engagement

Engagement Initiated: November 2023

Engagement Description

The IESO launched the Market and Planning Data Engagement to gather feedback from stakeholders on the availability, accessibility, and usability of data related to Ontario's electricity market and system planning. This engagement was aimed at improving transparency and addressing gaps in the data available to market participants, planners, and other interested stakeholders.

Stakeholders were invited to provide input on specific datasets that could enhance decision-making, increase efficiency, and support energy planning and market operations. The IESO also sought suggestions on data formatting, platforms, and recommendations for optimizing access to important market and planning data.

A jurisdictional review of ISO markets and planning data was conducted to compare how the IESO's data offerings align with what is commonly provided by other ISOs, which helped further inform the discussion.

Engagement Objective

The primary objective of this engagement was to assess stakeholder needs for more comprehensive and accessible data to support market participation and planning activities. This engagement initiative was launched as outlined in the Settlement Agreement for the 2023-2025 Revenue Requirement Submission (EB-2022-0318). The IESO aimed to align its data offerings with user requirements and improve the overall user experience in accessing market and planning data.

A key focus of the engagement was identifying specific data sets that stakeholder found essential but currently missing or difficult to access. The IESO also aimed to gather input on the best practices for data sharing, including preferences for formats, frequency, and delivery methods.

Engagement Approach

This stakeholder engagement was a public engagement process conducted in accordance with the IESO's approved engagement principles. The approach for this engagement initiative included opportunities to provide input through various channels such as webinars, survey, and written feedback. All materials including public feedback from stakeholders and IESO responses to feedback were posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage for this initiative.

Conclusion

The IESO received valuable feedback from stakeholders across various sectors, which emphasized the need for access to additional datasets, including municipal-specific data, and the importance of timely reporting for effective market participation and planning. Stakeholders also highlighted the value of specific reports such as the Generator Output and Capability Report and the Hourly Consumption by Forward Sortation Area (FSA) report, requesting quicker turnaround times where possible.

As outlined in the March 21 presentation, the IESO has reviewed all questionnaire comments and data requests. Based on the feedback and data requests, the IESO categorized the requested data into four groups:

1. Already Publicly Available:

We observed that much of the data stakeholders are requesting is already published and accessible through IESO's existing platforms. For example, the Generator Output and Capability Report and Hourly Consumption by Forward Sortation Area (FSA) report are regularly made available. Links to these publicly available datasets have been provided for ease of access, ensuring that stakeholders are aware of existing resources.

2. Not Currently Available (May Be Made Public in the Future):

Certain data, while not currently available, may be made public as our processes evolve. As we complete initiatives like the Market Renewal Program (MRP) and other planning processes, additional datasets may become available. For example, data related to MRP will be made public once the market launches in 2025. As IESO planning products continue to evolve, we will assess whether associated data sets can be made available, with potential limitations or conditions depending on the data's nature.

3. Commercially Sensitive or Confidential, or Data IESO Does Not Own:

Some requested data is commercially sensitive or confidential due to physical or cybersecurity concerns, and therefore, cannot be published. Additionally, certain datasets, such as Electric Vehicle demand profiles, are not owned by the IESO and must be obtained through third-party sources. In general, data of this nature will not be made publicly available.

4. IESO Does Not Currently Have:

Some stakeholders requested data that the IESO does not currently have, such as detailed EV charger counts or other specific datasets. Where relevant, the IESO will explore options for obtaining this data, but it is not presently available within our systems.

While some data is already available and accessible via links like the IESO Parent Directory for market data, other requests may be addressed as future processes—such as the Market Renewal Program and evolving procurement processes—develop. We also clarified that certain market data, due to file size and stability limitations, is provided on a more granular basis, but stakeholders are free to aggregate this data as needed.

The feedback gathered through this engagement will inform the IESO's ongoing efforts to enhance its market and planning data offerings, balancing the need for transparency with the protection of sensitive commercial information. Stakeholders can expect future updates and improvements to be communicated through continued engagement opportunities.