

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for End-to-End Testing

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### **Document Change History**

Issue	Reason for Issue	Date
1.0	Initial issue of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for End-to-End Testing	February 13, 2025
2.0	The following updates have been made:	March 6, 2025
	<ul> <li>Added questions 1.13, 10.4, 10.5, 11.7, and 12.1</li> </ul>	
	Updated responses to questions 10.1 and 11.4	

### Purpose of the Document

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to enquiries Market Participants may have regarding and/or during End-to-End Testing. This document will be updated as the End-to-End Testing phase progresses.

#### 1. General Questions

#### 1.1 What is the purpose of End-to-End Testing?

The purpose of End-to-End Testing is to provide Market Participants and their service providers an opportunity to validate their ability to execute key business processes and system interactions that are affected by the Market Renewal Program (MRP). All external-facing systems and supporting IESO systems in scope of the Market Renewal Program will be integrated and available for testing in the Sandbox environment.

Market Participants will be able to test the full cycle of business processes, starting from the submissions of bids and offers in the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) through to the receipt of dispatch instructions in Real-Time (RT). In addition, Market Participants will be able to download operational reports, settlement statements and data files that are based on market transactions.

For more information on Market Trials, review the <u>Market Renewal Program (MRP): End-to-End</u> Testing Test Plan (External).

# 1.2 I did not participate in Connectivity Testing and/or Market Trials. Do I need to conduct the previous phases of testing before starting End-to-End Testing?

Market Participants are not required to complete the previous phases of testing before participating in End-to-End Testing. The IESO does recommend for Market Participants to verify that their users and/or API accounts can log in and successfully connect with the in-scope applications before the start of End-to-End Testing.

Please note that End-to-End Testing is Market Participants' last opportunity to test the changes the IESO is implementing before MRP Go-Live.

# 1.3 Can Market Participants perform exploratory testing during End-to-End Testing?

Market Participants will be able to perform exploratory testing on all in-scope systems during End-to-End Testing. Exploratory testing provides participants an opportunity to design and test their own scenarios that were not included in the structured test cases that were offered by the IESO.

#### 1.4 When will I be able to view the test cases?

Test cases for weeks 1 to 5 for End-to-End Testing are available on the <u>Market Participant Testing</u> webpage and in the Market Participant's qTest folder. Test cases for subsequent weeks will be made available closer to the start of the testing week(s).

#### 1.5 I conducted exploratory testing and am now encountering issues while running my own scenarios. How can I communicate the issue to the IESO using qTest?

Refer to the Quick Take: Test Case Creation and Execution for Exploratory Testing in gTest.

## 1.6 How can I mark the status of my assigned test cases to "Not Applicable" in qTest?

Refer to the Quick Take: Submission of Test Case Results and Defects in gTest.

#### 1.7 How is the IESO classifying my issues?

Refer to section 10.3.3 of the <u>Market Renewal Program (MRP): End-to-End Testing Test Plan</u> (External).

#### 1.8 How can I update the ranking/classification of my defect?

If Market Participants wish to communicate a different priority for their submitted defect(s), they can use the "Severity" dropdown menu in qTest. Market Participants should not update the "Priority" dropdown menu as the IESO uses this field to assign its own priority based on the issue's assessed risk and impact to the IESO systems and business processes.

# 1.9 When should Market Participants be submitting their test results for End-to-End Testing?

Market Participants should not delay the submission of their test results until the end of End-to-End Testing and are reminded to submit their results and defects using qTest or the Issue Log Templates as soon as they complete their test steps.

#### 1.10 How do I know which test cases are applicable for my organization?

Refer to the <u>End-to-End Testing</u>: <u>Test Cases based on Participation type</u> spreadsheet, and section 4 of the test scenario documents.

### 1.11 Does the IESO need the Provincial Government's approval to implement MRP?

To launch MRP, the IESO requires the market rule amendments to go into effect. The MRP rule amendments were approved by the IESO Board of Directors and putting them into effect is dependent on the outcome of the OEB's review of the rules which is currently underway. The OEB must render a decision by March 6, 2025. There are no government approvals required, and the government has expressed support for this important project.

#### 1.12 Will Ontario's election impact MRP's timelines?

The IESO continues to be on track for a May 1, 2025 launch and end-to-end testing of the renewed market is underway with participants. We will continue to keep participants informed as we progress towards go-live.

#### 1.13 Will there be any testing of the Transmission Rights Market during End-to-End Testing?

Testing of the transmission rights market is not included in the scenarios for End-to-End Testing. As noted in section 2.2 of the End-to-End Test Plan, settlement statement and data files for the financial market are out of scope for this test phase. The IESO will only publish settlement statements and data files for the physical market in the Sandbox environment.

#### 2. Timelines on Dispatch Data Submissions

### 2.1 When should Market Participants submit their dispatch data to execute test scenarios?

Market Participants are to submit dispatch data on the day prior to the impacted trade date between 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM EPT during the DAM submission window. The DAM calculation engine will run and generate the outputs for the next trade date. Please refer to the <u>Key Calendar Dates for End-to-End Testing</u> for information.

# 2.2 There are certain scenarios that are being tested during End-to-End Testing that would require a call to the IESO's Control Room. Do I call the Control Room during End-to-End Testing?

During End-to-End Testing, the IESO will be receiving or transmitting test scenario details for scenarios that would generally require a phone call to the Control Room. As this is an exercise in the Sandbox environment, Market Participants will send any prerequisite information using the E2EMarketTrial mailbox (E2EMarketTrial@ieso.ca). Refer to Section 6 and Appendix 6 of the Market Renewal Program (MRP): End-to-End Testing Test Plan (External) on the list of scenarios and the type of information the IESO will require from Market Participants to execute specific scenarios.

# 3. TS01 – Financial Reference Level (FRL) Change Request

#### 3.1 Can Market Participants change certain reference level values during Endto-End Testing?

Unfortunately no, the IESO cannot set standing data for the temporary reference level changes and these can be submitted for hours in the Day-Ahead Market or Real-Time Market. Market Participants would need to put in a request to increase their reference level when their fuel costs exceed that cost component of the reference level.

#### 3.2 How do I submit a temporary reference level change requests during Endto-End Testing?

Refer to the <u>Quick Take: How to Submit Temporary Reference Level Change Requests for End-to-End Testing</u> for step-by-step instructions.

### 4. TS02 – Day-Ahead Market (DAM) Failure

### 4.1 How will Market Participants be notified when there is a DAM Failure during End-to-End Testing?

The IESO will send emails to MRP Contacts and current qTest users from the IESO Market Renewal mailbox if the DAM fails during End-to-End Testing.

#### 4.2 How many times has the DAM failed since the start of End-to-End Testing?

There have been three instances where the DAM did not publish results:

- 1. For the January 20, 2025 trade date:
- This was a planned DAM failure as this was the first day of End-to-End Testing.
- 2. For the January 24, 2025 trade date:
- The DAM did not run due to an internal IESO system failure.
- 3. For the February 4, 2025 trade date:
- This was done as per Test Scenario 2: DAM Failure

#### 5. TS09 – Fuel Cost Compensation Form

5.1 I don't see a test case posted on the <u>Market Participant Testing</u> page for TS09 – Fuel Cost Compensation Form.

This test scenario is a continuation of testing the Fuel Cost Compensation Form from Market Trials. If Market Participants wish to test this form, Market Participants can refer to TC-04 in the <u>Market Trials:</u> <u>Fuel Cost Compensation Settlement Form in Online IESO</u> document. The test steps for this test scenario can also be found in Market Participants' qTest folder under End-to-End Testing.

## 5.2 Will the IESO be reviewing and processing the submitted data in the Fuel Compensation Form during End-to-End Testing?

No, the IESO will not be processing the submitted data in the Fuel Cost Compensation Form and related charges will not be included in the participants' settlement statements during End-to-End Testing.

#### 6. TS11 – 1-Day Advance Approval Outage

### 6.1 When should Market Participants submit outages for the 1-day Advance Approval process?

Market Participants are to submit their outages by **10:00 EST two business days before the start date of the outage**. For example, if a Market Participant wishes to submit an outage slip for their resource(s) with an outage date for Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, the Market Participant would need to submit the outage slip by Thursday at 10:00 EST. For more information, refer to Market Manual 7.3, Section 3.7.5.

# 6.2 What is the IESO's assessment deadline for the 1-Day Advance Approval Outage?

The new IESO assessment deadline for the 1-Day Advance Approval outage is at 08:00 EST, one business day before the start of the outage. For example, if an outage is starting on Saturday, Sunday, or a Monday, the IESO will assess outage slips on the Friday by 08:00 EST.

# 6.3 Did the IESO extend the timeline for Market Participants to test scenario 11 during End-to-End Testing?

This scenario was scheduled to run from January 20, 2025 to January 21, 2025. This scenario was extended until January 22, 2025 due to delays that impacted the Market Participants' ability to execute this scenario on time.

# 7. TS12 – Hourly Demand Response – HDR Activation

## 7.1 Did the IESO extend the timeline for Market Participants to test scenario 12 during End-to-End Testing?

This scenario was scheduled to run from January 27, 2025 to January 28, 2025. Test Scenario 12 was extended to run until January 29, 2025 due to an issue that affected reports related to this scenario.

#### 8. Test Scenario 21 – SEAL Constraint

### 8.1 Why am I not receiving dispatches for resources that I want to be constrained for?

During testing, it was observed that dispatches reflecting the minimum SEAL constraints were not being sent to the Market Participants' resources. Market Participants should offer in such a manner that their requested SEAL constraint would be binding in order to receive a dispatch that reflects the constraint. For example, a MIN SEAL constraint to 50% output would only produce a change in dispatch for a resource economically scheduled to <50% output.

# 9. Energy Market Interface (EMI) and Market Information Management (MIM)

9.1 Some of the test cases refer to different dispatch data submission timelines. Please provide a description of what each submission timeline means.

There are two overarching submission types Market Participants can submit dispatch data for. They are Daily Data and Hourly Data. Below is the list of dispatch data submission timelines for each of these submission types:

### 1. Daily Data Timelines (applicable to Daily Dispatch Data (DDD) and Forebay Dispatch Data (FDD) submissions)

- DA\_INITIAL: This is the Day-Ahead Market Submission Window where Market Participants
  can submit dispatch data for the dispatch day with no market restrictions. This window is
  from 06:00 EPT to 10:00 EPT.
- **DA\_RESTRICTED:** This is the *Day-Ahead Market Restricted Window* where IESO approval is required for all changes. The *Day-Ahead Market Restricted Window* starts at 10:00 EPT and lasts until DAM expiration which is usually completed at 13:30 EPT but must be completed by 15:30 EPT.
- **DA\_MANDATORY:** This is the *Real-Time Market Restricted Window* that starts after DAM expiration, and runs until 23:50 EST of the dispatch day. Submissions are allowed with a valid reason code however there are additional restrictions on minimum loading point, minimum generation block run-time, and single cycle mode.
- **DA\_CLOSE:** 10 minutes prior to the end of the dispatch day (i.e., 23:50 EST), no further changes are allowed to the dispatch data for the dispatch day.

• For more information on the submission timelines of dispatch data in DAM, refer to Market Manual 4.1, Section 7.

### 2. Hourly Data Timelines (applicable to Real Time Energy Market (RTEM), Operating Reserve (OPRES), and Schedule (SCH) submissions)

- **RT\_Initial:** This is the *Day-Ahead Market Submission Window* where Market Participants can submit dispatch data for the dispatch day with no market restrictions from 06:00 EPT to 10:00 EPT.
- DA\_Restricted: This is the Day-Ahead Market Restricted Window where IESO approval is required for all changes. The Day-Ahead Market Restricted Window starts at 10:00 EPT and lasts until DAM expiration which usually is completed at 13:30 EPT but must be completed by 15:30 EPT.
- RT\_Unrestricted1: This is the Real-Time Market Unrestricted Window which starts at DAM
  expiration and ends at 20:00 EST on the day prior to the Dispatch Day. At this time,
  commitment cost restrictions are applied to GOG-eligible resources for the DAM
  committed/scheduled hours.
- **RT\_Unrestricted2:** At 20:00 EST on the day prior to the dispatch day, the Real-*Time Market Unrestricted Window* continues with additional GOG-eligible commitment cost restrictions apply to all dispatch hours. The *Real-Time Market Unrestricted Window* ends two hours before the dispatch hour.
- **RT\_Mandatory:** Two hours before the start of the dispatch hour, the Real-Time Market enters the *Real-Time Market Mandatory Window*. IESO approval is required for all changes. The *Real-Time Market Mandatory Window* ends 10 minutes before the start of the dispatch hour.
- **RT\_Close:** 10 minutes prior to the dispatch hour, the Real-Time Market closes for the corresponding dispatch hour. No further changes are allowed to the real-time data for the dispatch hour.
- For more information on the submission timelines of dispatch data, please refer to Market Manual 4.1, Section 7.

### 3. The NERC Tag ID (also referred to as the e-Tag ID) parameter in the Real Time Energy Market (RTEM) submission is subject to its independent submission timelines.

- NERC\_Initial: This NERC Tag ID submission timeline for the dispatch day starts at 06:00
  EPT on the day prior to the dispatch day. Market Participants are allowed to submit NERC Tag
  ID data for the dispatch day with no restrictions. Other restrictions might apply according to
  the timelines specified above for Hourly Data.
- NERC\_Mandatory: This is the NERC Tag ID Mandatory Window. The NERC Tag ID
  Mandatory Window starts 32 minutes before the dispatch hour and ends 10 minutes before
  the dispatch hour. Operator approval is required for NERC Tag ID changes. For more
  information on the NERC Tag ID Mandatory Window, refer to Market Manual 4.1, Section
  4.1.3.1 and B.4.2.

 NERC\_Close: 10 minutes prior to the dispatch hour, the NERC Tag ID submission timeline closes. No further changes are allowed to the NERC Tag ID parameter for the corresponding dispatch hour.

#### 9.2 I am having difficulties accessing MIM via API or MWT Toolkit.

In Appendix 5 of the <u>Market Renewal Program (MRP): End-to-End Testing Plan,</u> the URL to access MIM is listed as: <u>https://webservices-sandboxmrp.ieso.ca/emim</u>. The correct URL is: <u>https://webservices-sandboxmrp.ieso.ca/emim?wsdl</u>. The IESO apologizes for the confusion.

### 10. IESO Reports

### 10.1 I identified an issue with a report and the IESO has deployed a fix. Will the IESO republish historical reports?

Where possible, the IESO has republished historical reports after deploying a fix and has notified participants that identified the defect when the corrected reports have been published.

The following reports have now been republished with corrected data where possible:

- Day-Ahead Schedule Report
- Day-Ahead Commitments Reports
- Day-Ahead Hourly Energy LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Virtual Zonal Energy Price Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Ontario Zonal Energy Price Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Operating Reserve LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Intertie Energy LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Intertie Operating Reserve LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Totals Report
- Realtime Energy Dispatch Report
- Realtime Energy and Operating Reserve Dispatch
- Realtime Operating Reserve Dispatch
- Realtime 5-min Energy LMP
- Realtime 5-Min Virtual Zonal Energy Price
- Realtime 5-min Ontario Zonal Energy Price
- Realtime 5-min Operating Reserve LMP
- Realtime 5-min Intertie Energy LMP

- Realtime 5-min Intertie Operating Reserve LMP
- Realtime Totals Report

# 10.2 The IESO will be updating the Sandbox environment to a high system demand during Week 4 and 5 of End-to-End Testing. Will the DAM be running during the week?

To facilitate test scenarios for weeks four and five (see Appendix 1 of the <u>Market Renewal Program (MRP): End-to-End Testing Plan</u>), the IESO updated the base conditions in the Sandbox testing environment from normal to high system demand. The changes were implemented on **February 5** at 20:00 EST until **February 10 at 24:00 EST**.

During the change window, Market Participants may have noticed missing or unrealistic data, such as extreme prices, non-convergence, or schedule volatility, in the reports and settlement statements that were produced for the February 5 to 10 trade dates. The February 10 Day-Ahead Market run for February 11 was not impacted by this change.

## 10.3 Why am I seeing missing or unrealistic data in my reports for the February 5 to 10, 2025 trade dates?

Please see response in <u>Section 10.2.</u>

## 10.4A report was not published as expected, will the IESO now publish missing historical reports?

Where a participant identified a report was missing, the IESO has now published the missing report if possible, and has notified participants that identified this issue.

The following missing reports have now been published where requested and possible:

- Day-Ahead Schedule Report
- Day-Ahead Commitments Reports
- Day-Ahead Hourly Energy LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Virtual Zonal Energy Price Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Ontario Zonal Energy Price Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Operating Reserve LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Intertie Energy LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Hourly Intertie Operating Reserve LMP Report
- Day-Ahead Totals Report
- Realtime Energy Dispatch Report
- Realtime Energy and Operating Reserve Dispatch

- Realtime Operating Reserve Dispatch
- Realtime 5-min Energy LMP
- Realtime 5-Min Virtual Zonal Energy Price
- Realtime 5-min Ontario Zonal Energy Price
- Realtime 5-min Operating Reserve LMP
- Realtime 5-min Intertie Energy LMP
- Realtime 5-min Intertie Operating Reserve LMP
- Realtime Totals Report

If participants do not see a historical report from the above list and they require it to complete testing, please submit a defect via qTest or the Issue Log Template. These day-ahead and real-time reports will be published within 4 business days of the defect submission, provided the data is still available.

For other operational reports not listed above, in the rare event that the report is not generated and published on schedule the IESO does not publish the report after the hour has passed. Participants can use the information published in the previous hour. This is consistent with current practice in the production environment.

# 10.5 In Section 10.2, the IESO has identified that they republished historical reports. Am I required to re-run Scenario 7 – Market Power Mitigation?

Market Participants are not required to re-run Scenario 7 – Market Power Mitigation as they can utilize their previous test results and the republished reports to verify that their transactions in their settlement statements. If the republished reports match their settlement statements, Market Participants can set the test step(s) as "Passed" in qTest and in their Issue Log Template.

#### 11. Settlement Statements

#### 11.1 Where can I find the sample settlement statements and data files?

The IESO created generic settlement statements and data files for six different participation types that can be used by Market Participants to support the development and testing of their systems. The generic settlement statements and data files can be found on the <u>Settlement Reference Materials</u> page.

### 11.2 Where can I find the Settlement Schedule for the End-to-End Testing Test Phase?

The <u>Settlement Schedule for the End-to-End Testing Test Phase</u> can be found on the <u>Market Participant Testing page</u>.

## 11.3I don't see my settlement statements that were published from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Due to issues identified with the settlement statements that were published for the January 20, 2025 and January 21, 2025 trade dates, the IESO MRP team paused the publishing of settlement statements from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup>. Upon resolution, the IESO published version 2 of the preliminary settlement statements for the January 20 and 21 trade dates, and version 1 of the preliminary settlement statements for trade dates January 22, 2025 to January 26, 2025. Market Participants can download their settlement statements from the IESO Confidential Sandbox Reports site.

## 11.4When will I be seeing the reference levels for settlement mitigation be applied to the settlement charges?

The IESO has resolved the issue with reference levels for settlement mitigation that were not accounted for in the calculation of settlement charges. Going forward, reference level for settlement mitigation will be included in the applicable settlement charges and Preliminary Settlement Statements. The Final Settlement Statements (FSS) for trade dates January 31 to February 6 will include reference levels used for settlement mitigation. Corrections to the settlement statements for trade dates January 20 to January 30 will be included in the Resettlement Statement on March 14.

## 11.5 Why am I seeing missing or unrealistic data in my settlement statements for the February 5 to 10, 2025 trade dates?

Please see response in <u>Section 10.2.</u>

# 11.6 When will I be able to test or view invoice statements during End-to-End Testing?

Market Participants will not be able to test invoice statements as they are out of scope for End-to-End Testing.

## 11.7 Where can I view or download my settlement statements for End-to-End Testing?

Market Participants can download their settlement statements from the IESO Confidential Sandbox Reports site. Market Participants should refer to <u>Guide for all Contact Roles</u> to ensure that they have the correct contact roles to be able to view and/or download their settlement statements. If they do not have the correct contact roles assigned, Market Participants should contact their Applicant Representative to address this in Sandbox Online IESO.

### 12. Economic Operating Point (EOP)

#### 12.1 What Economic Operating Point values are provided to participants?

Energy and Operating Reserve Economic Operating Point (EOP) values are provided for applicable resources, for every hour when a dispatchable resource is scheduled, for the day-ahead and real-time. These values are published in the settlements data file for all hours, regardless of whether a make-whole payment is calculated.

An issue occurred earlier in End-to-End testing in which data files were not being produced for resources that did not have a settlement charge on their statement. This was resolved on February 14 and communicated to participants.

# **Independent Electricity System Operator** 1600-120 Adelaide Street West Toronto, Ontario M5H 1T1 Phone: 905.403.6900 Toll-free: 1.888.448.7777 E-mail: <a href="mailto:customer.relations@ieso.ca">customer.relations@ieso.ca</a> ieso.ca @IESO\_Tweets in linkedin.com/company/IESO

