

Introduction

The Market Evolution Program (MEP) is based on the initiatives outlined in the IMO 2003-2005 Business Plan. These initiatives were derived with stakeholder input, which included the activities of the Market Advisory Council (MAC) and feedback on the Straw-Plan for the Evolution of Ontario Market Design. An integral part of the Market Evolution Program's mandate is the continued solicitation and consideration of stakeholder input.

The Market Evolution Program is divided into two phases:

- Phase 1 is a feasibility assessment, i.e., should the initiative proceed and in what form
- Phase 2 is the design phase (market rule changes, procedure changes and system requirements) where the design and implementation planning for each recommended initiative will be completed.

For a more detailed explanation of the program's initiatives and timelines see the Market Evolution Program Phase 1 definition document available on the Market Evolution web page.

Scope

This consultation plan sets out the objectives, activities and timelines to facilitate further stakeholder input to Phase 1 and the development of a consultation plan to be used in Phase 2. Consultation will use the existing framework of the Market Advisory Council, its standing committees and other forums as set out in the Consultation Handbook (IMO_GDE_0130).

Consultation Plan Objectives

Awareness and education

- To educate stakeholders about the Market Evolution Program so they can provide informed input

Certain MEP initiatives involve concepts that are not currently part of the Ontario market experience. This consultation includes a requirement to provide background information on such topics and to provide a means for stakeholders to identify additional training needs.

Opportunity and access to information

- Provide accessible and timely opportunity to be involved in the Market Evolution Program consultation process
- Provide timely access to information about the Market Evolution Program's progress and outcomes

This plan includes a schedule of consultation activities and proposed communication methods.

Issue identification and consensus building

- Provide opportunity for stakeholders to identify issues, offer solutions and work with each other to build consensus

During consultations, stakeholders are often asked to make yes/no judgements on specific proposals or issues. This can lead to situations where there is no majority stakeholder position and hence no clear direction for those seeking the input to base their decisions. A goal of this consultation is to build consensus as far as possible. Input that has broad support from stakeholders will have enhanced impact on the decision making process. Building consensus is more likely in a process where everyone understands the rationale for perspectives that differ from their own. Whenever practicable, this consultation will examine the reasons behind different positions to see if there is opportunity for a common-ground solution. It is recognized that for some issues there will be positions that cannot be reconciled, but this should come as a logical conclusion after the exercise of examining and understanding ‘why’ is completed.

Feedback and documentation

- Provide timely responses to comments, suggestions and concerns that are received

Successful consultation is a two-way process. As well as gathering input from stakeholders, the IMO must let stakeholders know how their input is used, particularly when a suggestion or proposal is not incorporated into a final recommendation to the IMO Board. The rationale used to make recommendations to the IMO Board will be communicated to all stakeholders by the IMO.

Activities & Communication Methods

The feasibility assessment must be completed by April 2003 for all but the locational marginal pricing initiative. In recognition of this challenging timeline, the consultation process in Phase 1 will make maximum use of IMO web site and email to both disseminate information and receive input. Input will be sought through the Market Advisory Council membership, but must begin in advance of their scheduled February meeting; certain initiatives, such as short-term resource adequacy, require decisions prior to that date.

Email is proposed as the most expedient means for stakeholders to communicate their input during Phase 1. Also, such stakeholder-documented input will ensure that their opinion is accurately recorded and considered in the IMO's decision making process. However, using electronic communication alone does not allow the level of interaction or opportunity for understanding that conversation can achieve. A dedicated MEP consultation phone line has been set up to facilitate the dialogue between stakeholders and the IMO on MEP initiatives. Stakeholders are encouraged to use this avenue in support of their written comments.

Interested parties can watch and hear the meeting presentations, as noted in the table below, by accessing an archived version using Windows Media Player. Discussion papers, archived presentations and other supporting material will be posted on the MEP web pages as they become available. MAC members will receive email notification when new information is posted.

The consultation activities listed below are a minimum set. The plan will change to accommodate new opportunities as Phase 1 progresses.

Stakeholders should submit input to IMO.consultation@theimo.com . The IMO's Market Evolution Program consultation support number is 905-403-6931.

| Activity | Date/Audience |
|--|--|
| Post: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEP Program Definition Document Phase 1 Consultation Plan | Week of Jan 30 |
| MEP Overview and Phase 1 Consultation Plan Request volunteers for Working Group to draft Phase 2 Consultation Plan | Jan 22 – Market Operations Standing Committee Jan 28 - Technical Panel Feb 5 – Regulatory Affairs Standing Committee |
| Post discussion papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Term Resource Adequacy Multi interval optimization Day Ahead Market Post archived version of ‘MEP Overview and Phase 1 Consultation Plan’ presentation with audio | Week of Jan 30 |
| Overview of MEP and Phase 1 Consultation Plan | Feb 5 – Regulatory Affairs Standing Committee |
| Post any IMO Board decisions affecting MEP | Feb 14 |
| Post discussion paper on Wholesale/Retail | Week of Feb 14 |
| Update MEP status Present draft Phase 2 Consultation Plan | Feb 18 - MAC |
| Post: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Phase 2 Consultation Plan Archived version of ‘Draft Phase 2 Consultation Plan’ presentation with audio | Week of Feb 21 |
| Post discussion papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Term Resource Adequacy Environmental Tracking | Week of March 14 |
| Present final Phase 2 Consultation Plan | Mar 5 – Market Operations Standing Committee |
| Post Initial Report on Locational Marginal Pricing | Apr 3 |
| Post any IMO Board decisions affecting MEP | Apr 4 |