

Meter Trouble Report Working Group



Minutes of the 2nd meeting

Date June 23, 2005

Time 8:30 am to 12:00

Location Skymark board room

Attendees

Tuire Pickering; IESO Chairperson
Al Dharshi; OPG MMP
Vlad Stanišić; OPG MMP
Mark Passi; Falconbridge MMP (By conference call)
Dave Akers; Newmarket Hydro MMP (Absent)
Len Macdonald; Newmarket Hydro MMP
Art Stokman; Guelph Hydro MMP (Absent)
Hans Paris; Guelph Hydro MMP
Rob Henschel; Horizon Utilities (absent)
Patricia Price; Horizon Utilities MSP
Travis Iwamoto; Hydro One MSP (absent)
Gordon Messervey; Hydro One MSP
Keith Rye; Peterborough MSP (Absent)
Alex N Lunycz ; Rodan MSP
Erin Campbell; Rodan MSP
Jim Baksi; IESO (By conference call)
Rowan Jones; IESO
David Wilkinson; IESO

1. Review of previous minutes

There were no comments provided by the group regarding the previous minutes.

The IESO did distribute the previous MTR Working group final report. Falconbridge requested that the recommendations status be updated.

Improved Interface with MTR/NOD by MSP/MMP

The XML for MTR report has available since April 1/05 with a daily report and a monthly refresh. These reports do not appear to be widely used and no feed back has been provided by MSPs or MMPs.

Improved communications with Meters/Improved Reliability and performance in Retrieving Data

Frameworks containing Modem information are being produced for each type of approved meters in the IESO market. Falconbridge requested the MSPs provide more guidance on communication upgrades.

Improved Time Synchronization of Meters

No progress in the item. There was some discussion of the impact of induction for Aux. power meters when circuits are out of service. The time appears to drift when the circuit is out of service.

Improved Main/alternate comparisons

The new method of validation in place since June/03 reduced the numbers of MTRs by 80%. This was an extremely successful change.

Voltage/current Check

The new method has been successful in reducing the number of MTRs.

Metering Power outage

The use of the form for notification has not been widely used and did not have a significant impact on MTRs resolution.

Reporting Meters that are Repeat Offenders

A monthly review is conducted and the results are forwarded to metering Group for further action.

Redundant Validation Checks

None identified.

Error code Priority

Errors are now listed in a priority sequence on the MTR.

2. Proposal from IESO on change of method for issuing Power Outage MTRs.

The proposal was distributed prior to the meeting. The IESO Production group is willing to trial this proposal for a 4 month period beginning in early August. The IESO will manually process all power outage MTRs. As there will be no automatic issuing of MTRs this will result in power outage MTRs being received later in the business day. Agreement from the group will be required for implementation. Comments and agreement will have to be provided before the end of July. If successful this process will be included in the final recommendations.

The definition of the short term outage was discussed. This is included in the proposal. 1 minute for the outage length was selected as it was 25% of the 5 minute interval as a starting point. Production will be visually comparing the load before and after the outage for reasonableness.

The longer duration power outages have a logic applied to power outage events. There will be only one MTR issued for a metering installation. Verification will still be required of valid power outages. The goal is to increase the percentage of MTRs resolved before preliminary settlement and reduce the effort on both IESO and the MSP. The issued MTRs will contain the outage date and time.

Rodan questioned whether the IESO will use V squared or I squared for confirmation or patterns. This may be considered at a later date after some experience has been gained in the new process. Agreement in principle was received by the group.

Hydro one will still encourage MMPs to send in outage information.

Falconbridge stated that this process will still not address the issue with pre planned long duration outages for maintenance or events.

A review of the scenarios was conducted. Comments have been included in the revised document. The cases that contain LA status flags affect only ION meters with versions prior to 2.32. These will gradually be eliminated when meters are replaced.

The IESO will be using the alternate meter data for settlement. There is no requirement to supply a data file unless the alternate data is incorrect.

If this change does not show benefits the IESO will revert to the existing method. The IESO is expecting consistent and full responses to power outage MTRs from all MSPs. Evaluating the benefits will require inputs from the MSPs as well as analysis by the IESO.

Update

All replies received regarding this proposal were agreement to proceed.

A conference call with all MSPs was held on July 6, 2005, again agreement to proceed was given.

This new process will begin with MTRs issued on August 3, 2005.

3. Review of communication items from 1st meeting

The IESO did review/compare the config files as requested from the action item from the first meeting. The comparison revealed only the Q1000 meter had a different TX command. On testing including this TX command, it did not improve IESO communication success rates. The number of retries for meters was also identical for OPG and IESO.

The IESO did also review the time delay settings and they were found to be appropriate.

The IESO will be testing during early August 16 direct lines on the new hardware to be installed in September for MV90. If the results are positive the IESO will move to direct lines for remote interrogations. ITRON has confirmed that MV90 does have issues using PBX. This will require the change of phone number which Hydro one expressed a concern.

The IESO also analyzed communication MTRs over a six day period. 76% of the meters that failed day one answered on day 2. After the 2nd day 84 % of the meters were successful. Meters that did not respond by day 3 (16%) were true problems.

There was also a small subset of meters that have MTRs issued every 2nd or 3rd day. When attempting to contact these meters some had very noisy lines.

MSPs may be requested to supply communication connection diagrams for stations that have constant communication errors. OPG provided two samples for one of their stations.

4. VPN

Mv90 does not support multiple VPN connections and IESO has security concerns with OPG may run a trial using the com port as a virtual modem. Serial redirector to terminal sender may be possible but there are configuration issues as the main meter time synch has to be changed. This may be a cost prohibitive issue. Rodan questioned whether the FRAD link could be used. OPG replied that the issue was cross linking between the operational metering and real time. VPN may also has issues for daisy chained meters.

The benefits of VPN of reducing costs and improving reliability will need to be confirmed by OPG is the test is completed on their systems.

At this time this issue is tabled.

5. Load Transfers

Hydro one stated that MTRs for power outages are sent back and forth due to the additional request regarding load transfers. Can a definition be developed for which transfers should be investigated? Hydroone's issue is with embedded meters where the first connected grid meter captures the load then the market is held harmless.

The IESO found that if the load is not confirmed it may result in post final adjustment. As post final adjustment is time consuming and costly this is the rationale for the investigation. The IESO is trying to develop criteria for the number of hours, the MW value that should be investigated and if Generator's output should be questioned.

Both Hydroone and Rodan explained that MSPs do not always know how the MMP has moved the load for the outage. Rodan stated that if they were the new MSP they would not have access or be

able to view the data on the legacy meters points or if there are other meters at the delivery point. With out a complete view of the metering a load transfer within a delivery point was difficult to identify.

Other issues.

Can the IESO look at the reason for the outage?

Can the IESO look at LDC's total load for differences?

Can the IESO ask the MSP if it is a Meter outage or actually a Power outage?

Can the IESO flag specific meter point ID's with operational information to improve consistency of IESO review?

Can the IESO review delivery point data first for trending?

Currently the IESO is attempting to have the Agents develop customer knowledge by focussing on the same group of customers.

While load transfers can be energy neutral they can result in excessive transmission charges. The Market rules have allowed the use of PADS to settle load transfers.

6. Review of MTR analysis, patterns, Error codes and number of MTRs

IESO provided graphs of monthly summaries of MTR error codes of the top five only. This confirmed that focus of the group is in the correct area. The revised charts will be distributed.

7. Schedule Next meeting

August 18th Skymark Board room 8:30 to Noon

Please confirm you attendance as I know that this is vacation season!