

Electronic Notification

September 17, 2010

To: Alberta Smart Grid Inquiry Participants

Alberta Smart Grid Inquiry
APPLICATION NO. 1606102
PROCEEDING ID. 598

ORAL PROCEEDINGS –SCHEDULE and QUESTION TOPICS

1. In its letter dated September 15, 2010, the Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) stated that it would be issuing a general list of the questions and topics that it expects to pursue in the question period, in order that participants can ensure that they have the correct people in attendance to answer the relevant questions.
2. The Commission has attached (see Appendix A) the general question topics for the parties. These general question topics are intended to serve as a starting point for the Commission's questions.
3. Further, based on the responses provided by participants, the Commission has attached (see Appendix B) the schedule for parties' presentations and question periods.
4. As outlined in its September 15, 2010 letter, the Commission has allocated 10 minutes for parties' opening remarks. The Commission intends to limit its questions to no more than 20 minutes for each party. However, the Commission expects that this may not always be possible, particularly in the case of the Alberta Electric System Operator, given its central role in the planning, operation, and governance of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
5. Proceedings will commence at 9:00 AM each day in the Commission's Calgary and Edmonton hearing rooms, as applicable, and are scheduled to end at 5:00 PM each day. While the proceedings will be transcribed, participants will not be sworn in and there will be no cross examination of participants by other participants. The proceedings will be quite informal and the Commission may choose to ask a question of any participant present in the room in order to confirm facts or to seek other perspectives.
6. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned at 403-592-4435.

Yours truly,

<Electronic Notification>

Robert Thomas
Director, Regulatory Policy

Attachments: Appendices A and B

APPENDIX A
SMART GRID ORAL PROCEEDING QUESTION TOPICS

Generation/Distributed Generation

Questions directed to: Generators, the AESO, Distributors with Distributed Generation, Rural Electrification Associations

The Commission is examining the use of smart grid technologies to facilitate the integration of distributed and renewable energy sources into the grid. The purpose is to ascertain the benefits of smart grid technologies as they relate to more effective implementation of distributed generation, micro-generation, and renewable energy sources; and the challenges to such implementations due to regulatory and policy hurdles, technological barriers, and current operating standards.

Subject Areas

1. Deployment of smart grid technology such as two-way communications to assist in the integration of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, small hydro into the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
2. Integration of distributed generation and micro-generation into the distribution systems and the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
3. Regulatory or policy changes that may be needed to facilitate the use of smart grid technologies to manage the integration of renewable energy sources.
4. Policy or regulatory impediments to deployment of smart grid technologies.

Transmission

Questions directed to: Transmission Facility Owners and the AESO

The following descriptions of subject areas for questioning make a distinction between smart grid technologies excluding smart meters and smart meters themselves. The purpose is to determine the effects of deploying smart grid technologies and the incremental effects of adding smart meters to transmission systems that have already deployed smart grid technologies.

Subject Areas

1. The effect of smart grid technologies, excluding the meter, on the planning, design and operation of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
2. The effect of smart meters on the planning, design and operation of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
3. Regulatory or policy changes that may be needed to allow the Transmission Facility Owners and the AESO to fully utilize smart grid and smart meter technologies including the availability of new types of data and two-way communications systems.

APPENDIX A
SMART GRID ORAL PROCEEDING QUESTION TOPICS

AESO-specific questions

Questions directed to: AESO

The Commission recognizes that the AESO has wide ranging duties. AESO business processes touch on many different aspects of the current grid operation and as such, the AESO perspective gives the Commission a unique insight into some smart grid related topics. The Commission will examine how smart grid technologies will affect current projects such as demand response initiatives as well as potential challenges that smart grid technologies will raise that may be particularly acute to the AESO such as security issues and data management.

Subject Areas

1. The effect of smart grid technologies and smart meters on the security of the system.
2. The effect of demand response programs on the planning, design, and operation of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System as well as the distribution and transmission system.
3. The opportunity for additional demand response products and services for industrial and large commercial customers.
4. How the full adoption of smart grid technologies and smart meters and the resulting increase in data volume will affect the AESO's operations and costs.

Distribution

Questions directed to: Distribution Facility Owners and the AESO

The following descriptions of subject areas for questioning make a distinction between smart grid technologies excluding smart meters and smart meters themselves. The purpose is to determine the effects of deploying smart grid technologies and the incremental effects of adding smart meters to distribution systems that have already deployed smart grid technologies.

Subject Areas

1. The effect of smart grid technologies on the planning, design and operation of the distribution system.
2. Additional planning, design and operational benefits that could be realized from the introduction of smart meters.
3. The effect of smart grid technologies on the reliability of the distribution system and whether and how the addition of smart meters to a smart grid distribution system improves reliability.
4. Whether the introduction of smart grid/smart meter technologies into the distribution system will facilitate new service continuity and quality measures.
5. Other than SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI are there other service continuity and quality measures that the introduction of smart grid technologies/smart meters will enable?
6. Whether there will be a need for new service quality measures related to the data management and delivery systems with the introduction of smart meters.

APPENDIX A
SMART GRID ORAL PROCEEDING QUESTION TOPICS

Meter

All parties may be asked about the following:

The Commission will examine various options for a roll-out of smart grid technologies and smart meters in order to understand the benefits and challenges of choosing an option. These options will include a range of ideas from sole reliance on market forces to government mandated roll-outs.

The Commission will also examine how AUC regulation (or regulation by other agencies) affects the various options for the roll-out of smart grid technologies and smart meters.

Subject Areas

1. The evolution of meter technology from Automated Meter Reading to Advanced Metering Infrastructure including the availability of various evolutions of these technologies.
2. Data collection and data management and back office systems required to fully utilize the capabilities of AMI including the advantages and disadvantages of one central database or several distinct databases.
3. Efficient rollout of these devices, data collection and management and back office systems.
4. The degree to which competitive markets can be relied upon to introduce smart meters into Alberta including the regulatory, policy, or economic barriers to the development of a competitive market for smart meters.
5. The effect of smart meter rollout on the operations of retailers.
6. The opportunity for demand response through retail prices including the RRO rate with the presence of smart meters for small volume customers.
7. The role of government in the rollout of smart meters.
8. The role of regulation and the role of markets in the development prices and the rollout of smart meters.
9. Regulatory or policy changes required to address privacy issues raised by the adoption of smart grid technologies and smart meters.
10. Establishment of communications systems standards, interoperability standards, and technology requirements.

Technology Panel

The Commission will seek to understand the evolution of smart meters to consider cost issues including asset life and access to the meter for possible competitors.

APPENDIX B
SMART GRID ORAL PROCEEDING SCHEDULE

Monday October 4, 2010 Calgary	Wednesday October 6, 2010 Calgary	Friday October 8, 2010 Edmonton
Alberta Electric System Operator	Technology Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cisco Systems Canada Inc. • ARC Business Solutions Inc. • SmartSynch Inc. 	Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta
AltaLink Management Ltd.	Dalibor Kladar	Technology Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landis +Gyr Canada • Telus Communications Inc. • IBM Canada Ltd.
Industrial Power Consumers Association of Alberta	Just Energy Corp.	ATCO Electric Ltd.
Independent Power Producers Society of Alberta	Direct Energy Marketing Ltd.	EPCOR Distribution and Transmission Inc.
FortisAlberta Inc.	Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate	ENMAX Corporation
Cities of Lethbridge and Red Deer	Rick Cowburn	Central Alberta Rural Electrification Association South Alta Rural Electrification Association
Alberta Municipal Power Systems Group	Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations	Consumers' Coalition of Alberta