

TCP/IP Communication

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Outline

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- Communication Restrictions
- Current Status
- Continued Phone-line Request – “discussion of options”
- Conformance Monitoring
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Communication Hardware – Market Manual Reference

- Section 13.1.1 of Hardware Standard requires the participant to use TCP/IP for metering data communications.
- For new facilities, TCP/IP communications implementation is effective January 1, 2016.
- For existing facility, TCP/IP communications implementation is effective July 1, 2016.
 - Completion shall be required in the year which is the earlier of the meter seal expiry or the metering installation re-registration

Communication Restrictions

- Section 13.1.5 of Hardware Standard accounts for situations where TCP/IP communications will be restricted or unavailable. It states;
“The IESO understands that from time-to-time TCP/IP communications will be restricted or unavailable. Metered Market Participants/Metering Service Providers shall communicate with IESO prior to commencing registration work to discuss options”

Current Status

- Meter Communications
 - 4224 meters interrogated daily (including MAIN and Alt)
 - 3684 via TCP/IP (87%)
 - 508 via telephone (13%)

Continued Phone-line Request – “discussion of options”

- Simply indicating unavailability of a certain service provider and/or internet service does not qualify as a discussion of options with the IESO.
- The following steps outline the diligence that the IESO would consider as an adequate discussion of options, leading to continued use of phone-line communication:
 - Identify the Service Providers in the vicinity. The participant can refer to the following Government Canada website:
<https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/sitt/bbmap/hm.html>
 - For each service provider listed, assess the feasibility of attaining service. Screen out those cannot be attained for qualitative reasoning e.g. the provider does not comply with the security requirements. Relevant evidence should be provided to the IESO.

Continued Phone-line Request – “discussion of options” cont’d

- Identify the process for attempting to attain a service signal from those remaining service providers. For example:
 - Connect a variety of modems. Document model types of the modems used.
 - Attempt to boost signal, if applicable, for mobile networks etc. Document model types of the booster used.
 - If remote interrogation communication test using modems was unsuccessful in establishing TCP/IP connection, then provide test results as evidence.
- Indicate the recommendation e.g. given that MSP cannot access the available services indicated, the MSP requests continued use of phone line communication.

Continued Phone-line Request – “discussion of options” cont’d

- If the request is approved:
 1. The meter installation will be put under conformance monitoring for a period of three years
 2. The MSP must develop a plan to convert from phone-line communication to TCP/IP communication
 3. The facility will be revisited after three years.

Next Steps

- A Policy section will be included in the revised Wholesale Revenue Metering Standard – Hardware which will outline an example of an adequate discussion of options necessary for the IESO to approve continued use of phone-line communication.

Questions

