

Technical Panel

2017 Self-Assessment Survey Results

The objective of the Technical Panel (TP) Self-Assessment Survey is to seek perspectives from its members on the effectiveness of the Panel, both collectively and as individual contributors, as well as seek input on the effectiveness of meetings. This input will help to support the Panel's mandate to provide advice and recommendations to the IESO Board on market rule amendments to ensure that the rule language meets the final design intent of the proposed change.

The IESO appreciates the feedback received which, in general, indicated satisfaction among Panel members that both the administration of meetings and the effectiveness of the Panel provide the necessary support to meet its mandate. Other feedback will be discussed within the following four themes at the January 23 TP meeting:

Theme #1: IESO rationale behind market rule amendment decisions

Survey results indicate that communicating a clear rationale for the IESO's decisions within the market rule amendment process is important information to Panel members. The IESO will take this input into consideration for discussion at the next IESO Board of Directors meeting.

Discussion: Are there any other views to consider?

Theme #2: How best to prepare for proposed rule amendments related to Market Renewal

Panel members indicate that they have the ability to deliberate on market rule amendments to support the Market Renewal Program. Important information will be required from the IESO to support this work including background, context from IESO and stakeholder perspectives as well as ample lead time for Panel members to prepare. In addition, given the volume of market rule amendments expected once the stakeholder initiatives are complete, there is uncertainty among Panel members that IESO staff resources will have the ability to bring the detail and quality of material to the Panel for consideration.

Discussion: In addition to the IESO making best efforts to provide context, background and other information, what support, if any, does the Panel need to better deliberate on or comprehend the anticipated amendments for market renewal? What are some opportunities that the Panel can leverage to support its role in the rule amendment process?

Theme #3: In-camera discussions

The survey results indicated a desire to hold in-camera discussions to help prepare for meetings.

Discussion - While ensuring that the transparency of the Panel's mandate is supported through public meetings, are there ways that the IESO can collaborate more with members to help prepare for meetings? i.e. future agenda items, discussion about information, etc.

Theme #4: Other

- Exploring new technologies for meetings
- Current composition of the Panel
- Other areas for discussion from Panel members

Following are the results of the 2017 Technical Panel Self-Assessment Survey which will be discussed with the IESO Board of Directors at their February meeting. A response to this feedback will be prepared following that discussion.

**2017 Technical Panel Self-Assessment
Survey Results with Comments**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I am adequately informed of IESO activities and initiatives to support my role of reviewing market rule amendment submissions/proposals and providing advice to the IESO Board	80%	20%		
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe the IESO provides required information pertaining to market rule amendment in advance of the meeting. On some topics it would be helpful to be better trained on the particular section of the market rule that is being reviewed, in advance of the specific panel session. • The IESO staff does a fantastic job of keeping the technical panel well informed. • I believe I am informed adequately as I follow the IESO activities closely. • I see the TP as a "team" of individuals with various strengths, and weaknesses, but with the information provided by staff and available through the web site, and other related electric utility web sites, a reasonable person should be in a position to do an adequate job of "approval and oversight", similar to what would be expected of a board member. However, I do think the TP as a whole will benefit from some training at some future meetings. • I benefit from working for a large company that is very much involved in IESO stakeholdering initiatives, where I am kept apprised of those activities internally. Might be a different response if I worked for a less-involved company. 				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2. Meeting formats allow for adequate discussion of agenda items as well as provide the ability to raise items not on the agenda.	65%	35%		
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In camera sessions where individual panel members can exchange opinions and information would be helpful. This could simply be an additional 30mins informal discussion time between members before or after a meeting. • The limitation is when not attending in person. Incorporating a video or skype technology for the technical panel meeting would allow for non-attending person to have improved ability to adequately discuss agenda items. • TP meetings are well-managed, allowing for sufficient discussion of contentious or complicated topics. • The Chair provides the opportunity for everyone to participate. The agenda does not feel rushed. The distribution of the agenda approximately a week before the meeting also facilitates agenda review. 				

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<p>3. Information is received in the appropriate format:</p> <p>(a) The information received in advance of meetings is appropriate to prepare for meetings</p> <p>(b) Information presented at meetings is appropriate to generate effective discussions</p> <p><i>*10% of the responses fell into a non-identified category.</i></p>	50%	40%		
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. In some more complex issues additional context from the IESO staff on the issue could prove to be beneficial. I have found the IESO staff level of expertise and abilities to aid in a higher or fuller understanding of the issue and implications of the issue presented. This could be done in writing that is included in the document package or verbally at the meetings. The information provided is typically comprehensive. The 'ask' is also typically well presented. The rationale for the recommended change has not always been crystal clear. This element has been improved over the past year 				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<p>4. Overall, I am satisfied with my personal contribution to the Panel.</p> <p>No comments</p>	55%	45%		
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<p>5. Overall, I am satisfied with the Panel's contribution to the IESO Board and Executive.</p>	55%	35%	10%	
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More feedback from the Board as to the value of the Panel itself, and the rationale behind final decisions would help inform this survey question. I believe the Panel is overall very effective in its mandate. The individuals on the panel represent a good cross-section of the industry with a good mix of experience. I believe the Panel has shown itself to represent the best interests of the rate payers of Ontario. I think the items have been a bit light in 2017, however with market renewal and the other initiatives coming forward, I believe that the Panel will have a more important role in contributing to the IESO Board. The panel has a breadth of industry and energy experience and the advice offered to the Board typically reflects that breadth of experience. 				

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
6. <i>I am confident that the IESO Board carefully considers the advice provided by the Panel before making a decision on proposed rule amendments.</i>	45%	45%	10%	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of feedback and rationale makes it difficult to evaluate the value of the Panel. • The IESO continues retain confidence of Panel. This is exhibited in their review of the Panels comments and advice prior to making a decision on a proposed rule amendment. • It would be good to see the meeting notes on the IESO Board discussions on market rules or have those meetings public. • The IESO Board chair has told the TP that the Board carefully considers TP advice. It would help to have further confirmation of this. • The Board and the Board Chair, specifically, have had significant engagement with the technical panel and shared their perspective on the advice that the technical panel provides. 				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
7. <i>The IESO provides sufficient rationale to the Panel for the decisions that are made by the Board.</i>	45%	20%	35%	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO has historically provided sufficient rational to the Panel for decisions. A concern may arise with both the amount and the type of amendments that may be presented in the coming year due to the Market Renewal. Given the magnitude I have concern staff and resources may be over loaded and may negatively impact the documents presented. • As has been discussed at recent TP meetings, there is room for more information and rationale on the IESO Board rule-related decisions. I also suggest that a non-IESO panel member be invited to attend IESO Board discussions on rule matters. • I only mildly disagree. This issue has been raised and it is my understanding that there is movement toward formalizing board feedback to reflect the formal input the technical panel provides via its recommendations 				

	Selected Responses
<p>8. <i>From time to time, the IESO provides information/education presentations to prepare for future Panel business. Please indicate your preference as to how this education should be delivered. Select all options that apply:</i></p> <p><i>a. During regular meetings</i></p> <p><i>b. Hold special meetings of the Panel</i></p> <p><i>c. Webinar</i></p> <p><i>d. Teleconference</i></p> <p><i>e. In Person</i></p> <p><i>f. Sessions grouped by constituency represented Panel members</i></p> <p><i>g. Sessions held with all Panel members</i></p> <p><i>h. On-line education so that individuals can complete at their own pace</i></p>	<p>80%</p> <p>70%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>50%</p> <p>60%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>60%</p> <p>20%</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information to educate Panel members and stakeholders writ large is always a good thing. • Although I may be thoroughly involved in the MRP, I still think it is a good idea to hold education session during the same time (ie. after) the regularly scheduled TP meetings. This ensures we are all on the same page and can understand the questions/concerns of other panel members. • Panel Members need to get familiar with concepts of the proposed new Market. • Best to have some format where questions can be posed. • All options for delivery are ok with me (in person at regular or special meetings, or electronic meeting formats. I do not think the panel should be divided for any sessions. • I would suggest that information and education presentation being segmented. An information session can be managed through a webinar or teleconference. In my view the more complex an education/training topic, the greater the need for an 'in person' session(s). The 'in person' session typically allows for better interaction in the learning process. 	
<p>Q: <i>What information or support do you feel you need to be a more effective Panel member?</i></p> <p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel that specific training on initiatives, either upcoming or under review, with respect to market rule amendments, in advance of formal discussions at the Technical Panel meeting would help the committee to better understand the issues and reasons for the proposed amendment, thereby making for a more effective Panel member. • More exchanges among Panel members to understand each other's unique concerns and perspectives / Feedback and rationale from Board regarding their decisions. • The ability to interact effectively from a distance. A effective video or skype type system would allow more participants from outside of the Toronto area to join. Additionally this will improve the overall effectiveness of the panel meeting by all members. • More Market Participants need to be on the Panel. Panel Members need to get familiar with concepts of the proposed new Market. • none • More lead time before new topics are introduced especially if there are background materials to assist in preparation 	

Q: What would you change about the way the meetings are conducted / administered?

Responses:

- I believe the current format of the meetings are good. The change I would like to see would be a webinar or advanced teleconference option for members when they are unable to attend the meeting in person.
- More free form in camera discussion time between Panel members.
- No suggestions
- I think the meetings are run well and I like that they are planned 1 year out.
- The IESO has a major challenge ahead of it. It will have to decide how best to make or amend Market Rules related to the Market Renewal Initiative with the existing Technical Panel. It cannot make MR by itself, it must employ educated stakeholders to opine on all decisions.
- nothing
- The meetings are well organized, and well run.

Q: Please provide any other comments you would like to add about your experience on the Technical Panel.

Responses:

- Our joint Technical Panel meeting with the IESO Board in October helped me to understand the value the TP provides to the Board in making decisions. As a new TP member my experience as a member of the TP is very positive.
- Thank you to the IESO staff for organizing meetings and the work and preparation behind the scene. It's never easy being the facilitator.
- The IESO staff the interact and support the Technical Panel are very efficient, effective and professional. They represent the IESO very well.
- There will be a need for more education to Technical Panel members. This will be even more important when Market Renewal related Market Rule amendments are drafted.
- As previous, I observe that most of the panel members represent a constituency that profits by being in the market and therefore their focus will be profit. I found it absurd that the consultant on reformation suggested only one consumer rep., those paying the bill. Glad they were over ruled. While it hasn't been verbalized, I think there is significant pressure on the IESO to do whatever they can to contain costs. I have been, and continue to be, on a number of fronts, in the electric utility business for 45 years. I never seen a government that did not tinker with the electricity system. Can't do much about that. But keep marching forward.