

Conveyors Sector Representatives – Paul Ferguson, Wayne Smith, Todd Wilcox

- From a transmitter's point of view, consistently, the priorities are reliability and cost. Relative to the IESO, the questions are: Are we running the system reliably and are we doing it cost effectively?
- Ontario needs to keep watch and be mindful of what's going on in the U.S. with respect to NERC standards. Most recently, FERC has issued a direction and NERC is now developing standards around the physical security of transmission stations and transmission lines. While there is good reason to have the same standards and to deviate would have to be done carefully, Ontario needs to have a dialogue about what the risks are, the level of security needed and the cost that ratepayers are willing to pay. That dialogue is taking place very fast in U.S. and the default position is that Ontario just adopts that result if a dialogue does not happen here. The IESO is in a good position to spearhead that conversation.
- Future of adequacy is a priority. Looking forward five to ten years when the Pickering units will be out of service, Ontario will have tighter supply relative to now. Will the supply be adequate relative to the need? We need to look at the operability of the transmission system and entire grid, not just the markets. The IESO, OPA, and transmitters need to explore the risk profile and where the market is going? What happens if we have tighter supply, more dependence on gas, less nuclear supply during similar winter conditions? From a transmitter's point of view, the situation could make it more difficult to get outages; transmission could be more constrained; as well as the interties could become more constrained and critical.
- Surveys indicate that customers do not want to pay more for electricity; whether for better reliability or for greener electricity. Consumers want to be able to control their costs. Let's work to engage and educate them about that.
- A discussion is needed about the future of the MDM/R, including its costs, whether it is affordable and what the alternatives are.
- Customer engagement is a priority. LDCs shouldn't wait to engage with consumers when lights are out or when bills are high – they should look at new ways to engage consumers on day-to-day basis. For example, Newmarket Hydro is running a contest which encourages consumers to look at their energy usage and pricing daily in order to earn points towards donations for a local health centre.
- Another priority is to investigate whether there is an opportunity for customers behind the distributor's meter to participate in the market through aggregated demand response. But in order to participate, they must be engaged. Currently the only customers that are engaged are those participating in OPA's DR programs or involved with AMPCO.
- Today with more inflexible generation (nuclear baseload, solar, wind) the challenge is to change load to match the generation. To get participation in demand response and conservation first initiatives, everyone, including the IESO, must look at ways to engage the consumers daily.