

Outage Management Redesign (SE-109) Stakeholder Survey Results on Outage Practices



The intent of the survey was for stakeholders to provide feedback on their outage practices, the existing IESO outage management process and suggested services under a new IESO outage management process. The IESO intends to consider this feedback in the development of a new outage management process.

The IESO received survey responses from the following participants:

- Brookfield Renewable Energy
- Bruce Power
- Enbridge Renewable Energy
- Gerdau
- Goreway Station Partnership
- Great Lakes Power Transmission LP
- Hydro One
- Ontario Power Generation
- Pattern Energy
- Portlands Energy Centre
- Powerstream
- TransCanada

Each survey question is listed below and accompanied by a summary of the key themes that emerged from stakeholders' responses.

1. *How far in advance do you typically plan for the various outages¹ within your organization?*

The results show that on average, outages are typically planned over two main time horizons – annually and weekly. Annual plans account for preventative maintenance activities while weekly plans address corrective maintenance activities.

2. *What factors² influence how far in advance you plan for the various outages in your organization*

- Other transmission, generation and/or wholesale customer outages
- Contractor availability
- Equipment warranty obligations
- Weather and environmental factors (Ministry of Natural Resources)
- Compliance with NERC standards
- Economic and political factors

3. *How frequently do you typically update your outage plans?*

On average, annual outage plans are revisited on a quarterly basis and may be updated after considering the factors identified in question 2 or if corrective maintenance requirements become identified. Weekly outage plans are subject to change as often as daily.

4. *How far in advance would you be able to commit³ to the various outage plans within your organization?*

On average, annual outage plans can be committed up to 6 months in advance while weekly plans can be committed up to 5 days in advance.

5. *Do you coordinate your outages with your stakeholders? If so, for what types of outages?*

All responses confirmed that outages are coordinated between multiple stakeholders with emphasis on directly impacted market participants and contractors.

6. *How could the IESO help you in facilitating your outages?*

7. *What types of information/services could the IESO provide in order to improve your outage planning activities - and how would you prefer to receive this information (i.e. frequency, method, etc.)?*

8. *What other aspects of the existing outage management process should we consider changing to improve your business needs?*

Responses received for questions 6 through 7 were grouped together as the majority of responses were appropriate for any individual question. Below is a list of *common* themes that the IESO considers within scope of this SE-109 consultation:

- Earlier advance approvals
- Introduce pre-approved outages or privileges that do not require outage reporting under low impact situations
- Notification of outage impacts beyond only resource adequacy months in advance
- Help identify outage conflicts and provide alternate outage scheduling recommendations months in advance.
- Transparency of information with respect to:
 - Decisions for outage rejection/revocation
 - System limits and/or constraints for upcoming and on-going outages (i.e. through a system map or information by zone)
- An automatic or active means of providing assessment results (i.e. via email rather than having to log into the online outage form)
- Online outage form enhancements, namely:
 - Relaxed access controls
 - Compatibility with common technology
 - Reporting capabilities beyond those with IESO
 - Pre-authorized outage templates

¹as defined in Appendix B: Outage Reporting Requirements of Market Manual 7.3: Outage Management (http://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/pubs/systemOps/so_OutageManagement.pdf#page=57)

²duration, customer coordination, regulatory requirements etc.

³you are certain that your outage will proceed as planned and are requesting advance approval from the IESO