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A number of factors can delay work that is already in progress – weather, problems found with the equipment or external issues that prevent the work from being completed on time. Some of them can be as subtle as work going past a deadline and the internal resources required for switching are no longer available, pushing an outage from Friday afternoon until Monday morning when the resources are once again ready to work.

If a delay occurs to an outage in progress, it can easily affect another outage tied to the completion of the first outage. Thus, Outage “A” could prevent Outage “B” from starting on time.

Presently, when these difficulties arise, we used the short-notice process by phoning the IESO, explaining our situation, making whatever adjustments are required by the IESO Operators to the outage slips and carry on with our work. We have used this flexibility to our advantage to perform the work within our constraints and return the equipment to service.

However, from the recent SE-109 discussions, it has occurred to me that the operators may be accommodating short notice requests in the spirit of cooperation and that the proposed framework may not allow for the present response to our situation to continue. I believe that our position on the grid may make it easy to determine that we pose no issue with the rearrangement of our outages, but it is not clear on how to route our requests through the proposed Outage Management system.

The Pre-Approval process will allow us to plan the work effectively and respond to issues ahead of the job, but what is the correct way to handle problems that arise during the execution of that work?