

DRWG – Access to Green Button Data – Background

At the November 30th meeting of the DRWG, OhmConnect proposed a “short-term solution” to address access to meter data using Green Button “Download My Data” and asked for clarity from the IESO prior to the 2016 DR Auction as to whether the proposed solution was acceptable – refer to OhmConnect’s presentation at <http://www.ieso.ca/Documents/consult/drwg/DRWG-20161130-OhmConnect.pdf> .

The IESO will accept Green Button meter data for residential DR resources. However, the terms of agreements that a residential contributor may have with other parties, including with their respective utility or local distribution company, may not allow the residential contributor to share or access its Green Button meter data for the purpose of the DRMP’s participation as a residential DR resource. Therefore, the IESO requires that the DRMP ensure that sharing or accessing Green Button meter data for the purpose of participating in the IESO’s DR Auction as a residential DR resource is not in breach of any agreements its residential contributors may have with third parties, failing which the IESO may unilaterally revoke at any time and without further or prior notice to the DRMP its participation in the energy market during the Commitment Period in which it secured a capacity obligation.

Hydro One Response

The Green Button “Download My Data” (DMD) functionality is meant for individual customers to access their energy consumption data in a standard format. DMD capability is currently provided by most utilities in Ontario. Green Button follows privacy and security best practices, so customer information stays safe. In addition, it is only available through their secure online account.

At Hydro One, a customer gains access to their consumption data, in varying formats such as Excel, PDF, and Green Button, by logging into Hydro One’s MyAccount. This site contains access to a variety of services to our customers such as requests for Moving or Services, modifying billing preferences or contact information, as well as account history and payment details. **Hydro One would not support any activity that suggests that our customers provide their user credentials to another person or private entity to gain access to this confidential information, including consumption data.**

The Green Button “Connect My Data” (CMD) functionality is more aligned to the requirements of a DRMP. With CMD, a customer authorizes and manages third party organizations (such as OhmConnect) to have secured access to the customer’s consumption data. This would allow the third party to pull consumption data in Green Button format on a regular basis of the company’s choosing. However, this access is controlled by the customer and can be withdrawn by the customer (or the utility) at any time. In addition, the sign-up process to provide the access to third parties captures all legal consent authorizations and stores these within the utility systems.

However, at this time, the “Connect My Data” functionality is being provided by only two utilities (in Pilot mode), including Hydro One. The customer volume that is suggested by the documentation for DRMP also indicates that utilities would need to have production-ready (as opposed to Pilot) systems in place. Timelines and requirements for Hydro One to upgrade to a production platform and for other utilities to provide similar access are not determined at this time.