

Engagement Plan

Expanding Third Party Access to the Smart Metering Data

Introduction

The Smart Metering Entity (SME) is responsible for the operation of the province's Meter Data Management/Repository (MDM/R). The MDM/R serves as a central database for storing, processing, validating and managing information about hourly smart meter data that supports the billing processes of Local Distribution Companies (LDCs).

More than five million smart meters transmit data hourly to the MDM/R, making it one of the largest shared data platforms in the world – with over 125 million new records added every day.

The IESO has been designated the SME by the Government of Ontario and operates under license from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). As the province's SME, the IESO develops, manages and protects Ontario's MDM/R.

In March 2022, via [Order EB 201-029](#), the OEB approved access to Canadian Government Entities¹ to select data sets (non-personal, aggregated data derived from the smart meter data received from all LDCs). Subsequently, the OEB has asked the SME to further uncover the value of the smart meter data in the MDM/R and assess expanding access to entities beyond those already approved.

To assess this potential value, the IESO will be engaging with external organizations to help support the SME's response to the OEB on expanding third party access beyond Canadian Government Entities.

This engagement plan outlines the objectives, approach, timeline and considerations for engaging with stakeholders during the Expanding Third Party Access engagement. This engagement plan may be subject to review and updates as the process evolves. All comments and enquiries on this engagement can be directed to engagement@ieso.ca.

¹Canadian Government Entities: Federal and provincial governments, including ministries, agencies, boards, commissions, tribunals and wholly-owned corporations, or in the case of non-share capital corporations, where such corporations are controlled by a federal or provincial governments, as well as municipalities (or regional governments), universities, school boards, hospitals and First Nations. First Nations means a "council of the band" as that term is defined in subsection 2(1) of the Indian Act (Canada). "Canadian Governmental

Entities” does not include private sector entities, publicly traded companies, individual doctors, professors, or government officials and all those entities that do not fall in one of the categories outlined above.

Stakeholders and Communities

The IESO encourages all interested parties to participate in this engagement through the public engagement activities described in the Approach section below. The IESO anticipates that this initiative will be of particular interest to stakeholders with an interest in, and ability to, provide input to an assumption/question on how access to smart meter data could be expanded to non-Canadian Government Entities.

Engagement Objectives

The objectives of this engagement are:

- To ensure that stakeholders understand the purpose of this initiative;
- To introduce the program to stakeholders as it is today;
- To seek input on a series of questions around the value of the smart meter data available for sharing (e.g. potential use cases), key considerations for data access (technology, privacy, security, ethics, legal agreements, etc.), appropriate costing models and any other aspects of importance to all parties;
- To inform further discussions with key influencers (such as past interveners in SME applications, the IPC, OEB, Ministry and others) prior to submitting a response to the OEB in April 2024.

Approach

This engagement plan will be implemented in accordance with the [IESO’s approved engagement principles](#).

This is a public engagement process. All materials will be posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage, and, any information/input supplied by interested parties will also be posted (with consent).

The approach for this engagement is to engage and meet with relevant external parties who are able to participate in discussions and provide input to an assumption/question on whether access to smart meter data should be expanded to non-Canadian Government Entities.

Engagement will commence with a broad public session, which will be followed by focused discussions with external organizations grouped by their type. Examples of organization types encompass environmental organizations, energy management service companies, data-driven companies, and potentially other broad groupings as needed. It is expected that one, or possibly two, meetings will be required with each defined group.

Proposed Engagement Schedule

The anticipated timing for this engagement is presented below. Note that timing and content associated with upcoming activities are subject to change. Updates will be posted to the SME: Third Party Access engagement page, when available.

Timing	Engagement Activity
October 2023	<p>Public Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will be introduced to the program as it is today and be challenged to provide input to a series of questions around the value of the data available for sharing (e.g. potential use cases), comments on considerations for data access (privacy and security), and potential cost models.
November - December, 2023	<p>Engagement discussions grouped by organization type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted discussions based on the interests and needs of each organization type. It would be expected that the organizations may need some pre- or post-work to review the nature of the data (no actual data would be provided, however synthetic iterations may be made available upon request to facilitate understanding – of note that while not at the same level of granularity, there is public level data available on the IESO website at Consumption Data (ieso.ca)) or consult with other areas within their companies to enable the submission of thoughtful feedback.
January – March 2024	<p>*Potentially additional research pending the outcome of the focused engagement discussions and input seeking & discussions with other key parties (SME past interveners in OEB applications, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, others).</p>
April 30 th 2024	<p>Targeted date to submit response to the OEB.</p>

Additional Background and Resources

- [IESO Smart Metering Entity](#)
- [Order EB 201-029](#)

Related Engagements