

Market Renewal Program: Market Participant Readiness Plan

- Market participants can review the plan and propose suggestions.
- The next important steps are in Q2 2022 when the Technical Specifications will be released, and each Market Participant type will receive a **"Day in the Life"** view of their participation in the new market.
- Subscribe to the Market Renewal Newsletter <https://ieso.ca/subscribe> to stay up-to-date on readiness information.

Market Participant Readiness

Through the Market Renewal Program (MRP), the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is actively working on market enhancements to create significant cost-efficiencies for Ontario's energy consumers by redesigning electricity markets to correct inefficiencies and encourage greater competition. Market renewal will help ensure Ontarians have a stable and reliable supply of electricity at the lowest cost while those working in the sector can rely on a robust market that is prepared for whatever the future may hold.

The IESO is currently in the Implementation Phase of the Market Renewal Program, and there are many activities happening to bring a renewed market to life. One of the most critical components to the success of the renewed market, and achieving the results set out in the business case, is the readiness of market participants (MPs) to actively participate in the new market.

The IESO is continuing to engage with stakeholders to finalize the batches of Market Rules and Market Manuals that will govern the renewed market. In parallel, the IESO is working on various tasks relating to solution development, and internal and external training, among other activities.

This document will outline the key approach and timelines for Market Participant Readiness activities, and will form the foundation of the specific tactical planning that is being created to support market participants through the Market Renewal transition.

Background

[Detailed Design](#) outlines the primary concepts and the changes that MPs can expect from the renewed market, including the design, process changes and the new data flows that will be required.

These detailed design documents serve as the foundation for the business requirements and the business process updates that market participants will have to undergo.

Throughout the latter half of 2021, the IESO engaged a cross-section of MPs for their advice and input on testing and training activities, which has guided the planning and approach used for Market Participant Readiness. The IESO is thankful to the individuals who volunteered for the Technical Advisory Group, the meeting materials and discussion summaries are posted on the IESO's [Implementation Engagement](#) webpage.

Market Rules and Market Manuals

Further to the [stakeholder engagement plan](#) the IESO is working closely with the stakeholder community to have visibility and engagement on the proposed Market Rules and Market Manuals. The IESO will continue to provide rules and manuals content together, as a cohesive package. The IESO is providing an opportunity for questions and discussions, and will diligently provide answers to all written comments.

Stakeholders have the opportunity to be engaged in the process by participating in the Engagement Days discussions, and accessing the specific language of these documents from the [IESO Market Renewal page](#). The schedule to release the remaining documents for stakeholder review are:

- Q1 2022: Calculation Engines Rules and Manuals
- Q3 2022: Market Settlement, Metering and Billing Rules and Manuals
- Q4 2022: Market and System Operations Rules and Manuals

The IESO will highlight opportunities to stay engaged in this process through the IESO Bulletin and the Market Renewal Newsletter <https://ieso.ca/subscribe>.

Market Participant Segmentation

The IESO is proposing to provide MPs a segmented view into what types of training and testing activities each type of market participant will need to consider, to be ready for the renewed market going into service. This segmentation will be available in Q2 2022, and will lay the foundation for MPs to plan and assign resources to the testing, training and educational opportunities through Market Renewal.

Alongside the MP segmentation, the IESO will also produce a **"Day in the Life"** for the various Market Participant types, including some generator fuel-types. This document will spell out in specific details what day-to-day changes will be expected for participation in the new market.

These two documents will set a clear foundation for MPs to plan out what are the business process changes that they will need to take on for their future participation. Further, this segmented view will form the basis of the checklist of training and testing activities that will be shared with each market participant so they can self-assess and certify their readiness for the renewed market.

IT Process Changes

The IESO is currently engaged in a range of solution development activities, which revolve around changes to three primary tools for interacting with the IESO-Administered Market: Online IESO, the Energy Market Interface (EMI), and Dispatch Services.

- **Online IESO** will be used to create new contact types, host the prudentials workflow, submit reference level information, among other uses.
- **EMI** (and the Market Information Management Application Programming Interface [MIM API]) is used to submit bids and offers (including in the Day-Ahead Market), and other relevant dispatch data.
- **Dispatch Services** is used to communicate commitment and de-commitment notifications.

MPs will be provided the Technical Specifications for the MIM API and the Dispatch Services API by Q2 2022. This will give participants the ability to assess the changes to the tools that the IESO hosts, which will then inform what changes are needed so that MP tools can seamlessly interact with these revised tools. Following the release of the Technical Specifications, the IESO proposes to begin market participant testing activities in Q4 2022.

The IESO is building a new sandbox, dedicated to MRP, to host the testing for the renewed market that is separate and distinct from the current IESO sandbox. The IESO will also be hosting a sandbox for reports, as report specifications are rolled-out in four batches, beginning in Q2 2022.

New and updated reports stem from the information in the Detailed Design, with additional details provided in the Rules and Manuals. The IESO anticipates ~50 new reports, and updates to a further ~100 reports. Due to the volume of changes, the IESO will provide the sample and schemas files, where applicable, to participants, and will update the Help files so that there is a clear indication of what is changing. IESO account managers will work with MPs if there are any challenges in accessing and interpreting information in Reports.

Timeline of readiness activities

Timing	Activities
Q2 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release of Technical Specifications (for MIM API and Dispatch Service API)• First batch of Report information, including sample and schemas files (where applicable)
Q3 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second batch of Report information for testing
Q4 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connectivity Testing – to verify systems are working and that the correct access requirements are in place• Test Case review – to share with MPs the test cases that will be used in the prescriptive structured testing

Timing	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third batch of Report information for testing
Q1 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online IESO Testing – test cases for execution to mimic activities like registering as a virtual trader, registering market control entity information, or managing prudential support obligations, among other tests • Fourth and final batch of Report information for testing
Q2 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMI and MIM API Structured Testing – test case execution to mimic activities submitting bids, offers, and dispatch data, among other tests • Dispatch Service User Interface / API Structured Testing – test cases for execution to mimic commitment or de-commitment notifications, among other tests • Online IESO MP Business Process Testing
Q3/Q4 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP Business Process Testing – use of the MRP sandbox for participants to test their business processes, and complete end-to-end testing

Communication, Education and Support

The IESO is preparing to support MPs through the final stages of the program by having an account management model. Each MP will be assigned a specific point of contact in Q1 2022 for all areas of testing, training and education. The account management model serves to provide a direct contact, timely and relevant communication, and accountability for resolving issues that may arise through training and testing phases.

The IESO will also be increasing the frequency of the [MRP Newsletter](#), and will shift the focus to provide more detail on the current implementation activities, updates to training material, and the upcoming opportunities for testing or further engagement.

Alongside the **“Day in the Life”** look at MRP for participants, the IESO will be building out a complete set of training materials so the sector can increase their understanding of key MRP concepts. This library of training materials can be used to train and educate sector participants, with the goal of greater understanding of the renewed market. Participants are welcome to notify the IESO if there are specific concepts or items that stakeholders would like to see covered in those materials.

The IESO will also be proceeding on using test case management software. As discussed with the [MRP Technical Advisory Group](#), test case management software has shown to provide significant benefits to the testing phase, as testing outputs can be tracked and recorded to lead to less downtime and more formalized defect tracking and correction. The IESO will provide more details on the steps that participants need to take to use a test case management tool, including licensing and

user agreements, and may consider the opportunities to leverage the tool when developing their own internal testing.

Working closely with MPs has been a hallmark of the IESO's activities, and with careful planning and communication, the IESO and Market Participants will be equipped to move forward confidently into a renewed market in Ontario.