

Transmission-Distribution Coordination Working Group (TDWG)

Meeting Notes

Meeting date: February 27, 2023
Meeting time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Meeting location: Microsoft Teams

Agenda Item 1: IESO Introduction, Feedback Summary and Proposed Scope

Inna Vilgan (IESO) and Ali Golriz (IESO) provided a summary of the TDWG members' feedback from the previous meeting and discussed the proposed continued scope for the TDWG beyond Q1 2023. Notable discussion, with the IESO's response in italics:

- Members indicated that there is a strong need and desire to holistically consider the merits of the Dual Participation and Total DSO models, including a socio-economic assessment and greater recognition of the central role of LDCs in the system. Some members disagreed with IESO staff about the Dual Participation model and indicated that they believe the Total DSO model is the most suitable and straightforward approach for Ontario, while the Dual Participation Model is more complex and will require LDCs to incur more costs.
- Additionally, members brought forward that while the adoption of the Dual Participation model may involve manageable implementation cost and complexity for the IESO, there is also a need to assess the capabilities that LDCs would need to develop, costs that LDCs would incur, and the potential of path dependence with adopting the Dual Participation model in the near term, which could restrict future options and bias decision-making.

IESO response: The IESO shared that its goal with the DER Market Vision and Design Project is to adopt participation models that can be implemented in the near-term in order to begin to unlock the substantial value that DERs can provide even while the sector continues to evolve. With the Dual Participation model, the IESO has sought to bring forward a coordination protocol that can support reliable operation of the transmission and distribution systems within Ontario's established regulatory environment. The IESO remains very open to adapting the dual participation model and other elements of its market design, as needed, as the current legislative/regulatory framework permits from an implementation perspective and the landscape evolves over time. The IESO also noted that while a holistic socioeconomic assessment of the models may prove valuable, it is outside the scope of the TDWG and the IESO's focus on a reliable and efficient electricity system.

IESO note: The IESO understands that TDWG members want to discuss the potential of path dependence associated with near-term distributor investments. The IESO looks forward to discussing these and other related topics, including the planned discussion related to functional capabilities to enable the Dual Participation and Total DSO models

- A member raised the idea of the TDWG being jointly chaired between the LDCs and IESO.
- A working group member asked whether the draft T-D conceptual coordination protocols developed will be tested.

IESO response: It was agreed that testing is key and noted that projects funded by the Grid Innovation Fund is one of the major avenues to undertaking such testing.

Agenda Item 2: EPRI T-D coordination protocol for Total DSO model

Stephen Kerr (EPRI) walked the group through a T-D coordination protocol for the for the distribution import congestion/NWA scenario for the Total DSO model as part of the DER Modeling & Scenarios Study. Notable discussion:

- There was discussion about the importance of aggregation and price signals in the Total DSO model.
- A working group member noted that there will be requirement of LDCs to have communication paths with the aggregator(s).
Response: EPRI agreed in that there is interaction between all three parties: IESO-DSO-DESA. The effort of LDCs in interaction with aggregators will be similar under both Dual Participation and Total DSO models.
- A member asked whether EPRI's presentation reflects the level of detail envisioned for the TDWG deliverable.
IESO response: The format in which the Dual Participation coordination protocol and the Total DSO coordination protocols have been presented in the TDWG differ. The Dual Participation protocol was presented by the IESO at the November TDWG session and the Total DSO protocol was presented by EPRI at the February TDWG session. The IESO feels the difference in format is appropriate given our current focus on the Dual Participation model for near-term implementation.
- A member asked whether EPRI's full report on the DER Scenarios & Modelling Study will be shared publicly, and expressed interest in the other scenarios and accompanying analysis.
IESO response: Although the two TDWG presentations meetings mentioned have focused on one operating framework or the other for simplicity of discussion, both operating frameworks are explored in the final version of the EPRI report/deliverable. The full EPRI report will be public. IESO is still considering whether to arrange a summary webinar at the TDWG, as part of the IESO York Region NWA Demonstration engagement or both.

Agenda Item 3: IESO and Hydro Ottawa on Regional Planning in Ottawa

Kennan Ip (IESO) and Joanna Hollingsworth (Hydro Ottawa) provided two presentations, on the transmission and distribution level issues and needs for the Greater Ottawa region. The presentation included an overview of transmission planning studies conducted, the nature of the needs and Hydro Ottawa's approach to planning and growth forecasts. Notable discussion:

- A working group member asked if IESO considered dispatchable services for Conservation Demand Management (CDM), and there was follow on questions around how targeted CDM works.
- Another member noted that there may be a disconnect between IESO’s planning and procurement processes given that IESO has accepted proposals for expedited long-term RFP and in which Ottawa was not defined as priority.

IESO response: IESO advised that specific CDM SMEs can help answer any questions regarding the particular programs. With respect to the long term RFP, the IESO notes that the Hydro Ottawa needs may need to be addressed through regional procurements. The RPPAG document referenced in Kennan’s presentation with further information is available at [RPPAG-Municipal-Information-Document-20221202.pdf](#) (oeb.ca).

Agenda Item 4: Alectra Presentation on an LDC perspective on the protocol for Dual Participation model

Hisham Omara (Alectra) provided a presentation on Alectra’s perspective on the draft T-D conceptual coordination protocol for the dual participation model that was presented at the November 9th, 2022 meeting. Due to lack of time, the TDWG did not have an opportunity to have notable discussion around the presentation. The IESO will follow up on Alectra’s presentation at the next TDWG meeting.

Action Item Summary

	Date	Action	Status	Assignee
1	20/03/2023	Feedback on the February 27 TDWG materials (please use feedback form)	In-progress	TDWG members