

## IESO Regional Electricity Forum

London Nov. 23/17

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The purpose of the Forum was to provide high level information on the evolving electricity system in Ontario and to enable questions, comments and suggestions from the participants.

### A. The Evolving Provincial Electricity System:

The day opened with Leonard Kula (IESO's VP of Planning, Acquisition and Operations and COO) speaking about the move from centralized to decentralized generation and greater community engagement in electricity decisions. He talked about how these and other key changes impact all the stakeholders. For example, the 3000+ mgw of embedded generation which are not connected to the main control room at IESO create a "lack of visibility" for IESO which can impact planning. There was also discussion of the power of community energy planning, market renewal to rebuild the foundations of the wholesale market, smart meters and MDMR.

Next, Samir Adkar (Mgr of Network and Microgrid Policy, MoE) and Chuck Farmer (Director, Stakeholder and Public Affairs, IESO) discussed the newly released LTEP. Samir explained how Innovation was encouraged in the LTEP...smart grid, third party ownership of net metering, innovative renewable distributed generation projects, conservation and energy efficiency, demand response demo projects.

Chuck talked about IESO's key goals and plans for the LTEP divided into three buckets: 1) energy support programs for First Nations 2) enabling innovation 3) facilitating an efficient system via bulk and regional system planning.

The third presentation by Vinay Sharma (Chair, Electricity Distributors Assoc. and Pres. of London Hydro) dealt with the need for LDCs to become more customer-

centric, create new revenue streams and utilize innovative technologies. He said that annually the city of London increases by 1500-2000 new homes but because of conservation and new technology there is no increase in total energy use. He does not think energy users should go completely off the grid as they have more resiliency by working and sharing with others.

There was a panel of speakers on Planning for Today and Tomorrow (Grieg Cameron VP Engineering and IT, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro; Bob Chow Director, Transmission Integration IESO; Nicola Presutti, Sr Mgr Control Room Operations, IESO; Robert Reinmuller, Director System Planning, Hydro One). They discussed how Provincial and Regional Planning and community needs are shaping the electricity system for the future. Components of the discussion included energy disruptors such as storage and microgrids, cyber security, the shift from manufacturing to IT, the introduction of electric vehicles, intensification, extreme weather. The responses to all of this involve increased monitoring and control of the distribution network, asset management for resiliency and security, conservation, improved information systems.

## B. The Local Perspective

Keynote Address by Ray Tracey, Pres and CEO of Essex Power Corp.

This was very interesting as Ray showed how their new Siri-like technology called CORA (Mother of Energy) functioned. She helps to simplify and amalgamate data to make it more useable to system planners, repair people and others for outage management, workflow management, meter management, centralized billing, DER, EV management, micro grid management etc.

He emphasized that the 70+ LDCs need to design a single system together so everyone is operating with the same capabilities.

David Mayberry, Warden of Oxford County:

Oxford County has developed a Community Sustainability Plan with 70 Action Items, many of which involve energy. For example, Oxford intends to continue to grow renewable energy so that it represents 100% of its needs by 2050. They are working hard on conservation and are purchasing County vehicles which run on renewable energy and are building or retrofitting County buildings to drastically reduce energy usage. When I spoke to him after the session, he said that since one County can't work on everything, they would be interested in partnering with other interested Counties to extend the reach of innovation and experimentation at the County level.

Engagement at the Local Level: Panel with Moderator Robert Doyle, IESO

Paul Martin, Director Business Operations, Western Univ.

Kithio Mwanzia, Pres and CEO Guelph Chamber of Commerce

Jamie Skimming, Mgr of Air Quality, London

This panel spoke about harnessing electricity to support growth and resiliency of communities and businesses and how and what the discussions should look like at the community level. How do we do stakeholder engagement more efficiently?

Some of the ideas which caught my attention and which we could discuss at the Board level:

1. The idea of having LDCs working together to develop common systems of technology usage and enhancement (ie the CORA digital utility in Essex)
2. Facilitating several interested Counties working together to develop Sustainability Plans in conjunction with Oxford County
3. D. Mayberry's suggestion that the age of information + the age of innovation = the age of integration and so perhaps IESO should stand for "Integrating Energy System Operator".
4. What are the potential issues arising as a result of IESO's "lack of visibility" due to increasing embedded generation?
5. Clearly aligning conservation with Ontario's climate change goals so the rate payer understands the juxtaposition.
6. Improving IESO's commitment to enabling innovation in the electricity sector. Are we doing enough?
7. One participant said that it was good to see one component of the chart on where our electricity comes from (hydro, nuclear, wind etc.) as being conservation. He then suggested that another component should be "optimization".
8. I realized I could benefit from having an up-to-date LDC Amalgamation Map
9. I would be most interested in the responses of the participants to the questions on the two feedback forms.

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Some suggestions I have to improve future Regional meetings:

1. Slido.com could/should have been used far more effectively to solicit information and questions and reactions from the participants.
2. What struck me most throughout the whole day was the total lack of women as speakers and panel members. This is totally unacceptable for IESO in 2017, especially as there are many competent women in the sector.
3. Although it was stated that the two purposes of the meeting were to inform participants and to solicit ideas from participants, I would suggest that the information part was 85% of the day, and questions were most of the remainder, with next to no time allotted for ideas from those present.

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