

File Memo

August 2011 Additional Information as per EB-2011-0105 Decision and Order

Elster AR3L transformer rated meters delivered in late 2010 were incorrectly programmed and do not meet the Provincial Smart Meter Standard. Negotiations between the three parties involved were required to resolve financial responsibility for removal, shipping and reprogramming. These negotiations took till April 2011 to complete and have seriously delayed the installation of transformer rated meters on over 1300 GS<50 customers. We are currently on plan to have most of the Elster A3RL's installed by September 30, 2011. However, in order to be compliant with current Measurement Canada requirements for new installations 380 meters were upgraded from 2-1/2 element to 3 element. These customer installations require an outage to add a voltage transformer and we are only able to accomplish 2 per day or less due to qualified staff shortages and allocation of qualified staff to the MDMR integration project. At our current rate of deployment a maximum of 126 installations will be streaming data to the MDMR in time to begin TOU billing on January 1, 2012. The remaining 254 installations will take 6 months to complete therefore the last installation cannot begin TOU billing until mid 2012. We are exploring contractor options for installation to improve the installation time line.

The same Elster A3RL meters with the Flexnet module under glass have a significant register read measurement issue that has been identified by Sensus. Sensus has applied to Measurement Canada for a firmware upgrade that will solve the problem. Measurement Canada has not approved the upgrade and GSHI cannot begin using data from the Sensus system to bill A3RL metered customers until the problem is fixed. Sensus has no indication as to when or if approval from Measurement Canada will come in time to allow TOU billing to proceed in compliance with the OEB decision and Order.

The EnergyIP 7.2 upgrade will seriously impact our MDMR integration as all systems will have to be retested in January 2012 after we have just completed integration testing required to meet the EB-2011-0105 Decision and Order. The required January 2012 retesting will encumber qualified staff who could be upgrading 2-1/2 element meter installations. It would be more efficient to delay MDMR integration till after the January 2012 EnergyIP 7.2, however this would contravene the Decision and Order.