# Activity and Program-based Benchmarking (APB) Stakeholder Meeting Feedback Survey

This survey is intended to gather feedback on the proposals made during the November 30, 2022, stakeholder meeting on the APB Initiative. For your convenience, you can use this Word version of the survey to facilitate your internal discussions and collate responses. To submit final survey responses, click on the “Take Survey” button on the APB Engage with Us page under the survey section.

**Distribution Station Equipment Capital Expenditure (CapEx) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Programs:**

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| **Question 1:**  The denominators of the current unit cost formulas for both distribution station CapEx and O&M programs are being normalized per station (MVA/Station), whereas the numerators are not. This fundamental difference results in higher unit costs for the distributors that have higher expenditures.  It was proposed during the November 30, 2022, stakeholder meeting that a more appropriate measure would be to change the denominator of the unit cost formulas from MVA/Station to Total MVA. With this change for both CapEx and O&M programs, the resulting measure would show the expenditures per MVA of the total transformation capacity.  Do you agree with the change in the denominator from MVA/Station to Total MVA? | | | |
|  | Yes |  | No |
| **Question 2:**  Please explain the rationale to your response to question 1. | | | |
| **Question 3:**  During the consultation, other factors that could potentially result in the difference between the distributors’ capital and O&M expenditures were also discussed. These factors included differences in station size and configurations, equipment in the stations, and age of the equipment.  What other factors besides the ones stated above could result in substantially different expenditure levels among distributors, resulting in incomparability of unit costs? | | | |
| **Question 4:**  Do you have any additional comments regarding Distribution Station Equipment CapEx and O&M programs? | | | |

**Vegetation Management O&M:**

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| **Question 5:**  The numerator currently includes all costs allocated to USoA 5135 (Overhead Distribution Lines and Feeders – Right of Way) and the denominator is the total number of poles.  The results of the survey leading up to the stakeholder meeting indicated that not all distributors perform planned vegetation management activities around secondary lines and service wires. Differing operating practices around vegetation management activities on secondary lines may result in unintended underlying discrepancies in unit cost comparison across distributors.  It was proposed during the stakeholder meeting that the costs associated with vegetation management around secondary lines and service wires be separated out from the total USoA 5135 amounts. To work towards a more insightful benchmarking measure for vegetation management O&M, OEB staff is seeking clarity on information that distributors can provide.  Is your organization able to provide a breakdown of the costs allocated to Uniform System of Accounts (USoA) 5135 into the following two categories?   1. Primary lines (including costs related to coincidental primary and secondary lines) 2. Secondary lines or service wires | | | |
|  | Yes |  | No |
| **Question 6:**  Please explain the rationale to your response to question 5. | | | |
| **Question 7:**  Do you have any additional comments regarding Vegetation Management O&M program? | | | |

**Meters CapEx:**

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| **Question 8:**  The current denominator is the total number of customers. During the stakeholder meeting, it was proposed that the denominator be changed from the total number of customers to the number of meters installed plus the meters added to the reserve. The intention behind this change was to show “capital expenditure per meter installed or added to reserve.”  Do you agree with changing the denominator from total number of customers to the “number of meters installed plus the meters added to the reserve” corresponding to the capital additions in USoA 1860? | | | | | | |
|  | | Yes | |  | No | |
| **Question 9:**  Please explain the rationale to your response to question 8. | | | | | | |
| **Question 10:**  Do you think this unit cost metric should look at “capital expenditure per meter installed” as opposed to “capital expenditure per meter installed or added to reserve”? | | | | | | |
|  | Yes | | |  | | No |
| **Question 11:** Please explain the rationale to your response to question 10. | | | | | | |
| **Question 12:**  Is your organization able to separately report the capital additions corresponding to meter installations versus the change in reserve for account 1860 on the fixed asset continuity schedule in Reporting and Record keeping Requirements (RRR) section 2.1.5.8? | | | | | | |
|  | Yes | |  | | | No |
| **Question 13:**  Please explain the rationale to your response to question 12. | | | | | | |
| **Question 14:**  Do you have any additional comments regarding Meters CapEx program? | | | | | | |

**Meters O&M:**

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| **Question 15:**  The current denominator is the total number of customers. During the stakeholder meeting, it was proposed that the denominator be revised to reflect the total number of meters in operation. Several stakeholders said the customers-to-meters relationship is likely to be 1-to-1. As such, the proposed revision to the denominator would not improve the metric in a meaningful way.  Alternatively, the current metric could be changed to show “average cost to maintain a single meter” by changing the denominator to “number of meters for which O&M activities were performed on in the year.” | | | |
| Is your organization able to provide the number of meters for which O&M activities were performed on in the year? | | | |
|  | Yes |  | No |
| **Question 16:**  Please explain the rationale to your response to question 15. | | | |
| **Question 17:**  Do you have any additional comments regarding Meters O&M program? | | | |

**General Feedback**

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| **Question 18:**  Do you have any other comments with respect to the Activity and Program-based Benchmarking Initiative? |