

# Toward Time-of-Use

## An IESO Smart Metering Entity Newsletter

### Jan. 21, 2011

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"Toward Time-of-Use" is a newsletter for local distribution company (LDC) staff and service agents working with the Smart Metering Entity (SME) as well as other industry stakeholders.

Send an email to the SME ([smartmeteringentity@ieso.ca](mailto:smartmeteringentity@ieso.ca)) to subscribe to the newsletter, provide feedback or submit general inquiries and story ideas. Visit the website ([www.smi-ieso.ca](http://www.smi-ieso.ca)) regularly for the latest SME news, information and documents.

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#### **IESO receives second clean MDM/R operations audit**

The IESO received another clean audit in an external audit that examined the Meter Data Management and Repository's (MDM/R) operations, processes and procedures. [Read the full story...](#)

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#### **Get a customized version of "Time-of-Use Rates at Work"**

"Time-of-Use Rates at Work," the IESO's online tool targeted toward small businesses, is available for LDCs to customize, brand and integrate on their [websites](#). [Read the full story](#) to learn more and contact the IESO's Corporate Communications team ([corporate.communications@ieso.ca](mailto:corporate.communications@ieso.ca)) to find out how to obtain an LDC-specific version of the site.

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#### **Ask the Trainer: How does the MDM/R process off-cycle billing requests?**

Off-cycle billing quantity requests are used to bill customers outside of their normal on-cycle billing period. An LDC will typically send an off-cycle request if a customer moves or had their service disconnected.

The MDM/R processes off-cycle billing requests as follows:

- If an off-cycle billing quantity request occurs outside of the MDM/R's billing window, its billing processor will run immediately and only once. The MDM/R will then return a Billing Quantity Response (BQR) file (or, billing data) to the LDC right after the data is processed.
- If an off-cycle billing quantity request occurs within the MDM/R's billing window, and data is available, its billing processor will also run immediately and return a BQR file to the LDC. If data is not available, the LDC will receive a BQR file that indicates data is missing and the MDM/R will continue to attempt to process the request within the billing window. If billing data becomes available during that time, the MDM/R will provide the BQR file to the LDC.

The MDM/R's billing window is three business days after the end date of a submitted billing period. The MDM/R's billing processor runs every three hours between 08:00 and 23:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST). In both cases, the MDM/R will send a BQR file to the LDC whether data is available or not. If data is not available for a Service Delivery Point (SDP), the SDP will also be listed on the MDM/R's BR06 Billing No Reads Report.

Visit the [Design and Standards](#) page for additional information about billing quantity requests and responses.

**Have a question for the SME? [Submit one online.](#)**

*(Questions and answers highlighted in this newsletter are also available on the SME website's ["Ask the Trainer" page.](#))*

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## Industry News

Select from the headlines below to read the latest smart metering and energy management technology news from around the world.

- Smart-meter plan's costs covered by savings: Hydro ([The Vancouver Sun](#), Jan. 19)
- Smart grid pursuit slow off mark ([The Japan Times](#), Jan. 11, Tokyo)
- Utilities seek fresh talent for smart grids ([The New York Times](#), Dec. 29)

## Resources

(Note: The first three bullets link to websites.)

- SME website
- Ministry of Energy
- Ontario Energy Board
- I would like to help my LDC begin the MDM/R integration process ([mdmr.registration@ieso.ca](mailto:mdmr.registration@ieso.ca))
- My LDC is processing smart meter data in the MDM/R production system ([mdmrsupport@service-now.ca](mailto:mdmrsupport@service-now.ca))

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## In general, each LDC must complete the following activities before billing its customers on TOU rates:

1. Its smart meters must be deployed;
2. It must be registered with the SME, test its systems with the MDM/R and transition to the MDM/R production system;
3. Its interval smart meter data must be flowing into the MDM/R production system on a daily basis;
4. LDC customers must be informed of their upcoming transition to TOU billing.

LDCs are also required to report their smart metering and TOU progress on a monthly basis to the Ontario Energy Board.

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*The IESO is responsible for managing Ontario's bulk electricity system and operating the wholesale electricity market. As the Smart Metering Entity, the IESO manages the Smart Metering Initiative's implementation, operates the provincial MDM/R and ensures LDC smart meter and IT systems integrate with it to support the Ontario's time-of-use (TOU) rate objectives.*

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*If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the [SME](#).*