

Meeting Minutes of Telecom Work Group

Time: November 20, 2018
Location: AESO / Conference Call
Attendee:

AESO: [REDACTED]
AltaLink: [REDACTED]
ATCO Electric: [REDACTED]
ENMAX: [REDACTED]
EPCOR: [REDACTED]
FortisAlberta: [REDACTED]

Meeting Notes

502.17 Voice Communication Rule

Discussed the availability targets for primary and backup voice communication systems and extended outage power requirements for backup voice communication systems. Availability levels selected with the intention of not being onerous but still setting an appropriate level.

Questions around who is tracking this and monitoring the performance. AESO's expectation at this point is market participants will self-report when having issues. AESO will have an idea based on existing requirements to notify AESO when system is down. Reporting expected around an annual basis but longer MTBF timeframes may be used with supporting documentation of the system.

Concerns about operational uplift for carrying traffic destined to the AESO and other market participants over the system. AESO sees this as something already offered and can be handled just like other TPR/SCADA is today. Market participants may need to develop agreements between themselves and ensure troubleshooting accountability and procedures are established.

Concerns about how MTTR will be calculated when it will depend on the market participant to notify of failure in some cases. AESO agrees this will have to be better defined.

The control centres aren't concerned with most telecom alarms and phone outages. AltaLink's NOC is only 5 days a week and would deal with potential issues. Concern that performance level requirements will drive more staffing. AESO suggests that higher availability placed only on more critical assets which likely will be a concern for the control centre, and availability levels likely provide for this delayed response.

Extended power for backup voice communication systems. 72 hours level may be to far. For orderwire concern about intermediary sites but control centres aren't that big of a concerns (gensets with fuel contracts). Question asked about what the blackstart requirement would be for complete system

restoration. AESO suggested a best guess of 4-5 days but that major centres would likely be online in the first 24 hours.

Based on the formal consultation delay AESO confirmed that the time for compliance will only begin when the rule has been accepted. Typically 9 months for rule with orderwire given ~1.5 years for TFO and ISO, and ~2 years for GFO.

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