Case 12-M-0476, et. al. EDI Business Working Group (BWG)/ Technical Working Group (TWG) Final Minutes – March 20, 2015

Administration

- Review/Modify Agenda: The Draft Agenda was adopted without modification.
- The Draft Minutes from the 3/13/2015 EDI Business Working Group (BWG)/Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting were adopted as Final without modification.
- DPS Staff Remarks None.

Regulatory Update Regarding EDI Matters

The BWG Chair gave a general overview the first Protections for Low Income ESCO Customers collaborative meeting on March 19, 2015. A review of the expected contents of the April 7 EDI Report was presented at the collaborative meeting. EDI Working Group development of other transactions to support the development of ESCO assistance program participant credits was also raised.

Modifications to PSC EDI Web pages

The link to National Fuel's EDI web page from Utility EDI Guides web page should be operational very soon. The initial version of National Fuel's Utility Maintained EDI Guide is a work-in-progress; essentially much of the content is being relocated from the current web page into the guide.

ESCO Assistance Program Participant Credits

The Working Group reviewed a workpaper presenting modifications to the Account Change Business Process document. Discussion focused on the Negative Response Process Output. While there was agreement that the ESCO was responsible for providing the credit directly to the customer in cases where the utility was no longer billing the customer, utilities were unsure if they could process an APP Credit if the ESCO providing the credit was no longer serving the customer. While it may be possible to show the APP Credit on the customer's bill, the lack of an 867 MU for the ESCO issuing the credit creates a barrier for creation of an 810 invoice transaction for that ESCO. After some discussion, it was determined that this issue was not limited to the Utility Rate Ready model; the same barrier exists if the APP Credit is received after the final Utility Bill Ready billing window. There was limited discussion about revisiting the decision in a prior meeting to not modify the 820 transaction but since it was believed that most APP Credits would be processed on 810 Invoices, the prior decision held.

Some utility working group members questioned whether the ESCO should directly credit the customer in this case but the BWG Chair said that based upon prior discussions with DPS Staff, that the Commission believes having the utility responsible for including the APP Credit on the customer's bill was the best means to ensure that the customer received the credit. As for placement on the customer bill, it was agreed that if the ESCO issuing the APP Credit was still serving the customer, the credit should be shown in the ESCO portion of the bill.

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If the customer is no longer served by that ESCO, the credit could be shown elsewhere (and not necessarily attributed to the ESCO that issued the APP Credit); the more critical requirement is reduction of the balance due from the customer. Processing rules appear to present an additional obstacle because only the ESCO serving the customer is permitted to submit an 814C. Some thought creation of a web portal for receipt of APP credits form non-current ESCOs could be a workaround. Others thought relaxing the 814C processing rules to accept APP Credits, i.e. a limited exception to the current rules, would maximize use of EDI. Utilities will have to investigate potential solutions but since it is believed that rejections of APP Credits will not be the usual case, that a standard solution might not be necessary so long as the utility explains its rejection response alternatives in its EDI Guide.

There was further discussion on the utility response when an APP Credit missed a billing window. The general consensus was that processing of the APP Credit would slip to the next cycle, i.e. it would not necessarily be rejected if the ESCO was still the customer's supplier. If the utility did reject the APP Credit, the best course of action could be for the ESCO to contact the utility to determine whether or not the transaction should be resubmitted. The frequency of APP Credits was also identified as a factor outside the control of the utility. While it may be possible to process credits every month, depending upon the process for determining which customers should receive credits, APP Credits may be a once a year event.

The BWG Chair will contact DPS Staff to discuss raised during today's meeting, i.e. bill presentation, billing window issues and circumstances under which the ESCO will need to issue the APP Credit directly to the customer. The requirement given to the EDI Working Group for the April 7 EDI Report was development of a transaction to receive the credit from the ESCO; this is done. Development of EDI solutions for billing related issues will occur after April 7 along with development of other EDI transactions intended to assist ESCO calculation of the credit.

Review of Updates to EDI Standards Documents

Before reviewing the most current version of the modified EDI Standards documents (810SR, 810UBR, 810URR, 814C, 814D, 814E, 814R and 867MU) posted to the April 7 Report webpage, the Business Process document changes for Service Portability were reviewed in detail. Working Group members were asked to bring necessary additional changes to the attention of the BWG Chair by 3/25/2015. The Index of Changes document lists the transaction, document and pages where there are material changes. The chair noted that a draft of the April 7 EDI Report might be posted for review and comment in advance of next week's meeting.

Modifications to Testing Procedures

There was no update – the Working group will focus upon this topic after the April 7 Report is filed.

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Other Business

Gary Lawrence asked if addition of a net metering indicator to EDI ever been discussed – other states support net metering in their EDI Standards. The BWG Chair noted that some of these other states have a larger based of installed advanced meter but a request for an indicator might be a potential outcome from Case 14-M-0101 (REV Case).

Establish date/time for next meeting

The next meeting will be a combined BWG/TWG meeting on Friday 3/27/2015 at 10 AM. Another meeting before 4/7 may be scheduled, if necessary, based upon discussion at the next meeting.

Attendees

MaryAnn Allen – Integrys Energy	Melinda Covey – Direct Energy
Mary Do – Latitude Technologies	Thomas Dougherty – Aurea
Joe Falcon – Ambit Energy	Giovanni Formato – Con Edison
Barbara Goubeaud – EC Infosystems	Gary Lawrence – Energy Services Group
Jennifer Lorenzini – Central Hudson	Janet Manfredi – Central Hudson
Kristen McFarland – IGS Energy	Veronica Munoz – Accenture
Mike Novak – National Fuel Gas	Jean Pauyo – O&R
Kris Redanauer – Direct Energy	Jay Sauta - Agway
Sergio Smilley – National Grid	Robin Taylor – DPS
Jay Tompkins – Central Hudson	Charlie Trick – NYSEG/RG&E
Marie Vajda – NYSEG/RG&E	Debbie Vincent – UGI Energy Services
Kimberly Wall – PPL Solutions	Jason Gullo – National Fuel Resources