

Case 12-M-0476, et. al.
EDI Business Working Group (BWG)
Final Minutes – July 11, 2014

Administration

- Review/Modify Agenda: The Draft Agenda was adopted unmodified.
- The 6/27/2014 Draft Minutes were reviewed and adopted as final.
- Mary Do was announces as the interim chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG). Kim Wall is expected to return in September.
- DPS – no remarks.

EDI Modification Priority Planning

Jackie Hernandez reviewed a spreadsheet she created as a planning tool to help track progress for development of revised EDI Standards. Items under development were categorized as follows:

- Priority 1 – Items in the 2/25/2014 Order.
- Priority 1a – Items in the 2/25/2014 Order that have been stayed by the Commission.
- Priority 2 – Optional EDI development supporting items in the 2/25/2014 Order.
- Priority 3 – Other EDI development.

If the stay gets lifted, the Priority 1a items will become Priority 1 items. The Chair noted that Jackie Hernandez will maintain the spreadsheet and it will be reviewed each week as a part of the agenda following the adoption of minutes. Additionally, the agendas of meeting will be organized to follow the prioritization scheme. Finally, the Chair noted that the prioritization was intended to organize work and not to preclude discussion of lower priority items.

Priority 1 Discussion

Determination of EDI Transaction for non-usage items

It was agreed that nearly all of the items would be made available post enrollment; as enrollment responses and change transactions (likely 814 transactions). The issue of concern relates to provision of information on a pre-enrollment basis.

At a high level, decisions have to be made whether to add new items to existing responses (814 HU or 867 HU) or to design a new transaction (dubbed ‘503X’ for discussion purposes). Modification to existing transactions appeared beneficial when the items were to some extent, already located within a transaction, or part of that EDI transaction in other states. Adding item items that were unique to New York into existing transactions could pose a difficulty for ESCO systems; the current HU responses are generally in line with those used in other states. Additionally, if the new items stray too far from the primary purpose of the conflicting business rules could complicate provision of information.

The benefits of a new transaction would be that business rules could be developed with a “clean slate” (thus less potential for conflicting business rules) and that if the existing transactions could be left unmodified, EDI testing would be limited to a smaller set of transactions. It was noted that a new transaction carried additional overhead and could be burdensome in that sense. For example, the 503X would likely new its own request transaction; i.e., it might not be part of a response to the initial 814 HU request.

Finally, the possibility of a combination outcome was discussed; some items might be better added to existing transactions while others were better suited to the 503X.

All agreed that where customer blocks were in place, they would also apply to new items; no information would be provided unless the customer removed the block. It was observed that for utilities that provided two-level blocks, potential for a 503X level block should be analyzed.

There was discussion noting that when there is no usage, the 867 HU will not be sent resulting in a de-facto block of the new items proposed to be added to the 867 HU. When this occurs, an HUU code (Historical Usage not available) is sent as a part of a negative response. The mostly likely reason this would occur is in the case of a new account before the first month has been completed. The possibility of sending the 867HU with no usage was discussed but that was seen as inconsistent with the primary purpose of the transaction. While use of a 503X transaction is a possible remedy, another remedy would be for the ESCO to request the information from the utility in a non-EDI mode (phone call or email, for example). To the extent the information was available, the utility could respond to the ESCO in a comparable manner.

The result of the BWG discussion on each of the items is recorded in the EDI Modification Priority Planning spreadsheet. Various assignments are recorded and need to be completed before the assignments can be finalized.

Priority 1A Discussion

- The Energy Related Value-Added Service indicator is a post enrollment item but the BWG is unsure of why it needs to be in an EDI transaction. It appears to be an attribute of an ESCO rate.
- Low Income Program/HEAP Customer Indicator is useful to the ESCO pre-enrollment and is likely an 814HU/503x item. The presence of a block is critical given the sensitivity of the information. Post-enrollment, changes would be communicated via 814 Enrollment and Change transactions.
- ESCO Bill Credit is a post enrollment item that appears best suited for a bill ready 810 transaction. For rate ready implementations, systems would have to be reconfigured to accept this transaction or a non-EDI means to process the credit would be needed. Con Ed will be preparing a workpaper to propose a non-EDI way to provide the credit on the bill.

Priority 2 Discussion

It was proposed that the Full Service Bill Comparison Transaction (proposed 503) provide the utility amount and ESCO amount for only the months that the ESCO was serving the customer for a period up to 15 months. This would provide ESCOs with 90-120 days from the time service to a customer ended to calculate the bill credit. This approach would result in simpler processing rules for rejections because there would not be a requirement for a formal window to hold a transaction open to an ESCO that was no longer providing service to the customer. Rejections would be sent to ESCOs that did not serve the customer during the historic period.

Other alternatives to the 503 transaction were discussed including:

- Providing the full service billing amount on a monthly basis via an 810 transaction.
 - ESCOs would be responsible for maintaining the history within their systems.
- Non-EDI solutions such as setting up a web-based system where an ESCO could see what the online calculator computed for ESCO customers.

Priority 3 Discussion

NYSERDA Historical Usage Request

A workpaper prepared by National Fuel compared NYSERDA's request to data available in the 867 HU. The request can be satisfied through the existing transaction but there are a few mandatory fields provided beyond NYSERDA's request (and customer authorization). NYSERDA would need to agree to not use and otherwise protect this data; otherwise a new transaction will be needed. Con Ed asked if Staff could arrange an opportunity for utilities to speak with NYSERDA to clarify some of the items NYSERDA is requesting. Brian Anderson (NYSERDA) contacted National Grid (which will also pilot the transaction) and stated that NYSERDA is looking for consumption history only.

Net Metering

While this item was added to the EDI Modification Priority Planning spreadsheet as a Priority 3 item, no substantive discussion took place. Net Metering will be an agenda item prospectively.

Utility Maintained Implementation Guides/Documents

A Draft Proposal addressing how Utility Maintained Implementation Guides/Documents would be organized and maintained was reviewed. Each utility would have the responsibility of maintaining their own documents and keeping them up to date. The DPS webpage would be modified to provide links to each of the documents. The process for changing documents would be somewhat analogous to the process for maintaining a GTOP. The initial guides would minimally consist of utility specific notes relocated from the current EDI Standards guides. Advance timing for changes to documents would be dependent upon whether substantive changes to business systems would be required. Feedback on the timeline is needed to make sure that overall timing is fair from a practical/technical perspective. Since the new process of updating guides could be a regulatory matter, meeting participants were asked to circulate the proposal to their legal staffs.

Establish date/time for next meeting

The next meeting will be a combined BWG/TWG meeting on 7/18/14 at 10 A.M. addressing continued development of revised EDI Standards.

Attendees

Zeno Barnum – Hudson Energy	Diane Beard – National Grid
Mary Do – Latitude Technologies	Tom Dougherty - ISTA
Joe Falcon – Ambit Energy	Giovanni Formato – Con Edison
Juliana Griffiths – National Grid	Jason Gullo – National Fuel Resources
Jackie Hernandez – Con Edison	Christine Hughey – Constellation
Gary Lawrence – Energy Services Group	Jennifer Lorenzini – Central Hudson
Veronica Munoz – Accenture	Mike Novak – National Fuel Gas
Debbie Rabago – Ambit Energy	Joann Seibel – O&R
Sergio Smiley – National Grid	Robin Taylor – DPS Staff
Cindy Tomeny – National Grid	Rick Tra – National Grid
Debbie Vincent – UGI Energy Services	Marc Webster – NYSEG/RG&E
Craig Weiss – National Grid	Jean Pauyo – O&R
Jay Sauta - Agway	

