

Case 12-M-0476, et. al.
EDI Business Working Group (BWG)/
Technical Working Group (TWG)
Final Minutes – March 6, 2015

Administration

- Review/Modify Agenda: The Draft Agenda was adopted without modification.
- The Draft Minutes from the 2/27/2015 EDI Business Working Group (BWG)/Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting were adopted as Final with modifications to attendance list.
- DPS Staff Remarks – None.

Regulatory Update Regarding EDI Matters

An Order on the October 23 report was issued March 2, 2015 (“March 2nd Order”). It was circulated to the EDI Working Group earlier this week via email and will be posted on the AskPSC.com EDI Home page.

ESCO Assistance Program Participant Credits

The Working Group reviewed two workpapers addressing options for rate ready utilities concerning the Assistance Program Participant Credit (“APP Credit”). The four options under consideration are:

1. ESCO provides APP Credit to Utility via limited implementation of 810 UBR Transactions where the utility would have to support an Inbound 810 Transaction.
2. ESCO provides APP Credit to Utility via web page/portal on a per customer basis.
3. The utility could calculate the APP Credit for the ESCO where the ESCO would have to notify the utility which customers and applicable timeframe.
4. Use of 814 C / 810 URR Transactions.

The BWG Chair noted that one of the workpapers raises several related business process issues but the initial task for the EDI Working Group from the 2/6/2015 Order on Rehearing is solely to develop the transaction ESCOs would use to communicate the APP Credit. To the extent other transactions to support the ESCO calculation process are developed they could be included but the April 7 Report, however, these transactions can be submitted after April 7. Further, with the upcoming collaborative on energy related value-added services/low income issues, other related transactions might be developed.

The TWG spoke to the use of 814C/810 URR approach noting 1) it could be scaled upward to include more than one credit and 2) would be a more consistent approach for ESCOs than use an 810 UBR; the general transactional design approach is to be completely bill ready or completely rate ready.

Craig Wiess from National Grid noted that from a technical perspective, unlike the 810 UBR inbound transaction the 814C is not designed to serve as invoicing transaction. Further, since Grid has both rate ready and bill ready utility service territories, it has technical expertise that other utilities might not have with the 810 UBR.

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Discussion on the web portal approach identified the option as workable and perhaps useful as a means to receive other adjustments but based upon scale, EDI appears to be the better solution. The web portal could be a viable interim solution for rate ready utilities.

The option of having the utility calculate was dropped; the Order's intention was that the ESCO would calculate the credit and even though a utility could perform the calculation on behalf of the ESCO, it could get complicated depending upon what the collaborative determines.

In terms of picking a preferred option, the BWG Chair asked if having both the 814C/810 URR and 810 UBR inbound as options for rate ready utilities was a workable approach. The TWG Chair asked that utilities try to pick one standard. Before the next meeting, each utility will evaluate their system capabilities to determine its preference.

Moving on to the general business process discussion, several questions were raised and discussed:

- How frequent will the credit be issued? Monthly, Annually?
- To assist the ESCO in its calculation of the APP Credit, the utility could provide its full service billing amounts – what means would be best?
 - A new EDI Transaction?
 - Web access to the customer's historical bill calculation?
- How will cancel/re-bills impact the calculation?
- How does ESCO use of different billing models impact the APP credit?
- What happens when the ESCO providing the APP Credit no longer is serving the customer because:
 - The customer is with another ESCO
 - The customer is taking full utility service.
 - The customer has moved out of the utility's service territory.

The BWG Chair said he would forward the questions to Staff – some of them may need to be resolved by the collaborative but to the extent there are technical solutions, the EDI Working Group should try to find solutions.

EDI Standards Documents - Contest Period EDI Transaction/Reinstatement Requests

Two workpapers were reviewed dealing with 814 D & 814R Implementation Guide modifications resulting from last week's meeting and related Business Process document changes. No further issues were been raised so the proposed changes will be made to the applicable EDI Standards guides.

Enhanced ESCO Service Portability

No further issues have been raised since the last meeting so the proposed changes have been or will be made to the applicable EDI standards guides.

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Use of 814E/814C to communicate sales tax rate information applicable to ESCO charges

No further issues have been raised since the last meeting so the proposed changes have been or will be made to the applicable EDI standards guides.

Modifications to PSC EDI Web pages

The BWG Chair noted that work-in-progress versions of the several of the EDI Standards documents (814C, 814D, 814E and 814R), in clean and redline formats, have been posted to April 7 Report web page.

Modifications to Testing Procedures

There is still a need for a volunteer to lead the Testing Sub Group. The March 2nd Order enabled expedited testing but also asked that the EDI Working Group should consider ways to streamline the EDI development, implementation and testing process. The Working Group is instructed to submit a report of its findings within two months of the date of the Order, i.e. May 4, 2015.

Other Business

Concern was again expressed about ensuring that all parties, especially small ESCOs and/or those with in-house EDI functionality, would be ready to implement when required. The BWG Chair has spoken with Staff and an email and/or some form of official notice within the next month to ESCOs to remind them of the changes and of compliance obligations will be issued.

Concerning testing of the changes from the March 2nd Order (Note: The Order identifies an eight month implementation period with the first six months are dedicated to completing required system updates and the last two months for testing), a question was raised about whether Staff would maintain a web page providing an implementation progress report. Additionally, a question was raised concerning when the Utility Maintained EDI Guides would be available. Staff was unavailable to respond but the BWG Chair surmised that resources might not be available to maintain such a web page. As an alternative, links to utility web sites where the guides will be available, which will be links to the AskPSC.com EDI web site, might be able to serve this purpose.

Establish date/time for next meeting

The next meeting will be a combined BWG/TWG meeting on Friday 3/13/2015 at 10 AM.

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Attendees

Angela Schorr - Direct Energy	Jeff Begley – NOCO Energy Corp.
Barbara Goubeaud – EC Infosystems	Jennifer Lorenzini – Central Hudson
Brian Meredith – IGS Energy	John Holtz – NRG
Charlie Trick – NYSEG/RG&E	Julie Goodchild - Direct Energy
Craig Wiess - National Grid	Kim Wall – PPL Solutions
Debbie Croce – EC Infosystems	Kris Redanauer - Direct Energy
Debbie Vincent - UGI Energy Services	Marie Vajda – NYSEG/RG&E
Donna Satcher-Jackson – National Grid	Mary Ann Allen - Integrys
Eric Heaton – Con Edison	Mary Do – Latitude Technologies
Gary Lawrence – Energy Services Group	Melinda Covey - Direct Energy
Giovanni Formato - Con Edison	Mike Novak – NFG
Janet Manfredi – Central Hudson	Sergio Smilley – National Grid
Jason Gullo – NFR	Susan Swiderski – NRG
Jay Sauta – Agway Energy Services	Thomas Dougherty – Aurea Energy Services
Jay Tompkins – Central Hudson	Zeno Barnum – Hudson Energy
Jean Pauyo – O&R	