

Case No. 12-M-0476 et. al.
EDI Business/Technical Working Groups
1/23/2015 Meeting
Workpaper – EDI Testing

Observations:

- There are eleven documents that comprise New York's EDI Test Plans. The documents have somewhat of a transactional orientation and were developed over a period of time.
- The Test Plans generally presume that ESCOs will be exchanging EDI transactions directly with Utilities. Over time, the predominant model is that both ESCOs and Utilities most frequently utilize EDI Service providers as "middle men" so that in fact, whether or not an ESCO or Utilities can exchange information with their EDI provider is actually more critical.
- The Phase I/Phase III testing orientation has become somewhat of an anachronism. DPS Staff no longer has resources to perform Phase I testing and given the maturity of the EDI Standards, the demand for Phase I testing is relatively low compared to the EDI "Start Up" over a decade ago.
- There is a difference in the testing requirements for a new market entrant (potentially scoped to a single utility) and the testing for existing market participants when a "batch" of changes to transactions scoped to the entire market.

Proposal: Rather than maintaining the existing EDI guides, develop a new EDI Test Plan primarily based upon the collective experience of EDI Service Providers for the mature EDI implementation in which New York operates.

- Which transactions are truly necessary to for Pre-Production (Phase III) testing, i.e. which ones effectively test an ESCO's ability to exchange business information with utilities? For example, is it still necessary to test responses to inbound transactions?
- Which transactions should be in the state-wide test plan and which should be redirected to Utility Maintained EDI Guides?
- Can Baseline (Phase I) testing be delegated to EDI Service Providers?
- When a utility makes changes to its underlying business systems (or provides functionality beyond that required in the EDI Standards) that impacts the way it complies/utilizes the EDI Standards, how much notice is needed for EDI Service Providers to reconfigure mappings with ESCOs/Utilities? Under what circumstances would testing be required? Or not?
- What else should be addressed?