

M. Modification of EDI Requirements

The Commission has established standards for EDI that ensure uniformity in business communications between ESCOs and utilities.⁴⁰ From time to time, we have modified these standards to reflect changes in our UBP and to accommodate operational changes in competitive retail energy markets. At this time, the EDI standards must be modified to accommodate the exchange of information necessary to implement actions directed in this order, as well as information that may assist ESCOs in providing new and creative value-added products to mass market customers.

To facilitate the adoption of the required EDI changes, Staff will convene a collaborative within 30 days of the date of this Order to address the changes discussed below. The revised EDI standards should be filed for Commission consideration within 120 days of the date of this Order.⁴¹

As explained above, the EDI standards must be modified to effectuate our new requirements regarding customers who participate in utility low income assistance programs and/or HEAP. Utilities must be able to use EDI to provide ESCOs with the customer's status as a participant in the utility low income assistance programs and/or HEAP.

In addition, ESCOs have asked that, when a utility rejects an EDI enrollment, the utility provide a reason code. Requiring that the utilities provide a reason code would give

⁴⁰ Case 98-M-0667, In the Matter of Electronic Data Interchange.

⁴¹ The results of the EDI Collaborative should be filed in Case 98-M-0667.

ESCOs an opportunity to overcome any unknown barriers to enrolling a customer.⁴²

Presently, ESCOs may use EDI to obtain information from the utility regarding a potential customer's monthly energy usage, service class, life support equipment indicator, and more.⁴³ As explained below, we are considering changes to our oversight of retail energy markets that may include additional opportunities for ESCOs offering energy-related value-added products. To accommodate these changes, it will be necessary for the utility to obtain information on whether the ESCO service provided to a customer includes energy-related value-added attributes. Therefore, the EDI standards must be modified to allow the ESCO to provide information identifying whether the customer is purchasing an energy-related value-added service and the nature of that service.

In addition, ESCOs contemplating offering dynamic pricing options to prospective customers, as well as demand response and tools to help manage energy use, have indicated an interest in obtaining additional information about prospective customers' historic energy usage patterns. The additional information would allow ESCOs to better understand the cost of serving particular customers and to create a product to meet the particular customer's energy management needs. The EDI standards need to be modified to allow utilities to provide ESCOs with the following information: (1) a specific

⁴² One reason for the rejection of an enrollment request is that the customer has an "enrollment block" on his or her account. The enrollment block prevents an ESCO from enrolling the customer unless the customer first removes the enrollment block.

⁴³ An ESCO may request this information regarding a customer of the utility, so long as the ESCO has the customer's authorization.

prospective customer's Installed Capacity (ICAP) tag, which indicates the customer's peak electricity demand; (2) customer's number of meters and meter numbers; (3) whether the customer's account is settled with the ISO utilizing an actual 'hourly' or a 'class shape' methodology; (4) whether the customer receives any special delivery or commodity "first through the meter" incentives or incentives from the New York Power Authority; (5) whether the utility identifies the customer as tax exempt; (6) the customer's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code; and, (7) whether the customer is currently served by the utility.

PART III

FACILITATION OF ENERGY-RELATED VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

In our December 30, 2013 order in Case 07-M-0548 we announced an initiative to restructure energy efficiency and other clean energy programs consistent with a comprehensive evaluation of how our regulatory paradigms and markets are serving our fundamental objectives. These objectives include (i) customer tools for effective management of bills; (ii) animation of markets; (iii) system wide efficiency; (iv) fuel and resource diversity; and (v) reliability and resilience. Among the critical questions identified in that order is how to enable market-based deployment of distributed energy resources and load management on a greater scale. We anticipate initiating a wide-ranging proceeding to examine this and related questions.

This strong emphasis on demand-side resources and market animation will in all likelihood result in greatly increased opportunities for ESCOs to offer value-added services to residential customers. Our goal is to transition to competitive retail energy markets in which ESCOs and other vendors offer a wide range of innovative products and services