

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held in the City of  
Albany on September 17, 2015

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Audrey Zibelman, Chair  
Patricia L. Acampora  
Gregg C. Sayre  
Diane X. Burman

CASE 12-M-0476 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to  
Assess Certain Aspects of the Residential and  
Small Non-residential Retail Energy Markets in  
New York State.

CASE 98-M-1343 - In the Matter of Retail Access Business Rules.

CASE 06-M-0647 - In the Matter of Energy Service Company Price  
Reporting Requirements.

CASE 98-M-0667 - In the Matter of Electronic Data Interchange.

ORDER APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO THE  
ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE STANDARDS

(Issued and Effective September 21, 2015)

BY THE COMMISSION:

INTRODUCTION

By this order, the Commission approves the  
modifications to the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Standards  
proposed in the EDI Working Group's report filed on April 7,  
2105.<sup>1</sup> EDI is the uniform system used by energy services  
companies (ESCOs) and utilities for the electronic exchange of  
retail access data. The modifications to EDI approved in this  
Order are necessary for the ESCOs and the utilities to implement

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<sup>1</sup> Case 12-M-0476 et al., April 2015 Report on EDI Standards  
Development (submitted April 7, 2015) (EDI Report).

requirements of the Commission's Order issued in the above referenced proceedings on February 25, 2014.<sup>2</sup>

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Commission established standards for EDI that ensure uniformity in business communications between ESCOs and utilities.<sup>3</sup> Periodically, these standards have been modified to reflect changes in the Uniform Business Practices (UBP), and to accommodate operational changes in competitive retail energy markets in New York State. In the February Order, the Commission called for modifications to EDI to accommodate: (1) the inclusion of a "reason code" when a utility rejects an ESCO's enrollment request; and (2) the provision by utilities to ESCOs of additional information prior to and at the time of an ESCO's enrollment of a customer.

The February Order also called for the creation of two additional EDI transactions. First, the February Order identified a need for a transaction through which a utility would identify whether a customer is a recipient of a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefit or a participant in the utility-administered income-based discount program. In addition, the February Order called for the creation of a transaction allowing an ESCO to indicate whether it was providing a customer with an energy-related value-added product or service, and the nature of that product or service. In light of requests for clarification of the term "energy-related value-

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<sup>2</sup> Case 12-M-0476 et al., Order Taking Actions to Improve the Residential and Small Non-residential Retail Access Markets (Issued February 25, 2014) (February Order).

<sup>3</sup> Case 98-M-0667, In the Matter of Electric Data Interchange, Opinion and Order on Implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (issued April 12, 2000).

added," the EDI Working Group did not present a proposal for the latter transaction in the April 7, 2015 EDI Report.

As required by the February Order, Staff held an initial collaborative meeting on March 24, 2014 to facilitate the development of the required EDI changes. As an outgrowth of the collaborative, stakeholders established the EDI Working Group, which consists of utilities, ESCOs, EDI service providers, and Staff. On April 7, 2015 the EDI Working Group submitted the EDI Report, which included proposed Revised EDI Standards and recommended that the proposed revisions be adopted as the New York EDI Data Standards and Test Plans.

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA) §202(1), a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published in the State Register on May 20, 2015. The time for submission of comments pursuant to the Notice expired on July 4, 2015. No comments were received.

#### THE EDI REPORT

To effectuate the changes envisioned in the February Order, the EDI Report contains modifications to EDI Standards Implementation Guides, Testing Plans and Business Process documents that will be used by ESCOs to provide Assistance Program Participant (APP) Credits to customers billed under either of the utility consolidated billing models, namely Utility Bill Ready (UBR) or Utility Rate Ready (URR). In addition to the changes required by the February Order, the EDI Working Group revised the EDI Standards Documents to:

- Accommodate the use of EDI for service portability;
- Facilitate ESCO Contest Period reinstatement requests;

- Modify language to reflect accelerated switching changes;
- Clarify language regarding provision of sales tax rates for URR billing model;
- Remove references to specific utility implementations, and add references to Utility Maintained EDI Guides and modify/remove outdated language;
- Reflect changes, within the current standards to changes anticipated to occur over the next 12 months;
- Address miscellaneous housekeeping errors.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The February Order identified certain changes to EDI that should facilitate the continued development of the retail access markets in New York State. The EDI Standards must be modified to effectuate our new requirements regarding customers who participate in utility low income assistance programs. In addition, ESCOs have asked that, when a utility rejects an EDI enrollment, the utility provide a reason code. The EDI Report included revised EDI Standards that incorporate these modifications. In addition the revised EDI Standards include modifications that allow for the effective functioning of EDI. These modifications were achieved through a collaborative process between Staff and interested stakeholders.

#### The Commission orders:

1. Revisions to the EDI Standards documents, as set forth in the EDI Report submitted in these proceedings on April 7, 2015 are adopted.

2. In the Secretary's sole discretion, the deadlines set forth in this order may be extended. Any request for an extension must be in writing, must include a justification for

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the extension, and must be filed at least one day prior to the affected deadline.

3. This proceeding is continued

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary