

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held in the City of
Albany on August 26, 2002

COMMISSIONER PRESENT:

Maureen O. Helmer, Chairman

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

ORDER APPROVING ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE
STANDARD FOR SINGLE RETAILER INVOICES

(Issued and Effective August 26, 2002)

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in New York requires the development, approval, programming and testing of a variety of EDI data standards. As each new EDI data standard is considered, it is necessary to review previously approved standards to ensure that each standard continues to support the participants' data needs for all approved business processes. By this Order, an 810 Invoice standard¹ for the Single Retailer model is approved. Further, as requested by the EDI Collaborative, a revised version of the 867 Monthly Usage standard will be issued for comment.

When the Single Retailer model is used, the traditional utility generally provides its delivery services to the Single Retailer entity that, in turn, serves the customer. Under this model, the customer has a business relationship with

¹ The 810 Invoice Standard is comprised of three documents: TS810 Invoice Implementation Guide - Single Retailer Model; Billing Business Processes - Single Retailer Model; and EDI 810 Data Dictionary for Single Retailer Invoices.

only the Single Retailer (for both energy and delivery) and not with the traditional utility company. Billing and payment processing is, by definition, the responsibility solely of the Single Retailer that serves the customer. However, that responsibility may be contracted out to a third party, including in some cases to the utility company. The 810 Invoice transaction allows the Single Retailer to receive electronic invoices applicable to a particular customer, either in the form of text to be displayed on the bill or in the form of bill data to be calculated based on the Single Retailer's rate schedules.

In compliance with the order issued on April 4, 2002 in this proceeding,² the EDI Collaborative filed the implementation guide, data dictionary and business process documents for the 810 Invoice - Single Retailer Model on May 30, 2002. Comments were solicited on the proposed standard by a notice published in the State Register on June 5, 2002. Comments were received from New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and the EDI Collaborative.

DISPOSITION OF COMMENTS

Bill Calculator Code

NYSEG commented that there is currently no quick way for a trading partner to identify that a specific 810 Invoice transaction is a Single Retailer invoice rather than an ESCO Bill Ready invoice without examining the entire structure of the transaction. NYSEG believes that it would be beneficial to have a single segment that could be queried to determine if a transaction is a Single Retailer invoice and recommends that a

² Case 98-M-0667, In the Matter of Electronic Data Interchange, Order Adjusting Workplan and Deadlines for the Proceeding (issued April 4, 2002).

new Bill Calculator code be established and included in the Implementation Guide to help trading partners distinguish between Single Retailer and ESCO Bill Ready invoices.

Discussion

NYSEG's suggestion to add a Bill Calculator segment to the 810 Single Retailer Invoice Standard is inconsistent with the rules in the EDI Enrollment and Change transactions which indicate this segment is not applicable to the Single Retailer model. Adding such a segment to the Invoice transaction, therefore, may prove more, rather than less, confusing. It is the absence of the Bill Presenter and Bill Calculator segments in the Single Retailer Invoice that distinguishes this invoice transaction from invoices used in other billing models. Therefore, as the transactions are distinguishable, no revision is necessary.

Front Matter Notes

With respect to the Front Matter notes in the Implementation Guide, NYSEG raises concerns regarding the lack of clarity in the following statement:

"Typically the SAC08 multiplied by the SAC10 will equal the SAC05. However, in certain situations the SAC08 x SAC10 will not equal SAC05. For example, amounts calculated for prorated periods or when the minimum demand is greater than the peak demand for the reported period."

It suggests "that the Commission's ordering document approving the 810 Invoice should include an example showing a prorated period and an example where the minimum demand is greater than the peak demand for the reported period."

Discussion

NYSEG's suggestion is a good one. Adding examples of transactions using prorated amounts would clarify the Front Matter notes regarding the structure of the SAC segment in

individual transactions. The Implementation Guide has been modified accordingly.

Separate 820 Remittance Advice Transaction

The EDI Collaborative recommends in its May 30, 2002 Single Retailer filing that the Commission reconsider the need for a separate 820 Remittance Advice transaction for the Single Retailer model as being unnecessary and cumbersome. The EDI Collaborative believes that "documentation accompanying the actual funds transfer should be sufficient to enable both the Utility and [ESCO/Marketer] to reconcile remittances." In an August 1, 2002 filing, the EDI Collaborative proposed alternative non-EDI procedures for handling payment data for Single Retailer transactions. NYSEG endorsed the recommendation that the TS820 Remittance Advice transaction is not necessary for the Single Retailer model since "the volume of these types of payments will be very low."

Discussion

With respect to the EDI Collaborative's recommendation regarding the necessity of an 820 Remittance transaction for the Single Retailer model, it should be considered following expiration of the comment period for the August 1, 2002 filing.

Revisions to 867 Monthly Usage Transaction Standard

The EDI Collaborative "recommends that the 867MU transaction standard be revised to add an additional data loop to enable the Utility to send the E/M the following additional data segments where applicable: beginning and ending meter reads, meter multipliers, number of dials, service point id, therm and degree day factors, and transformer loss adjustment factor in addition to consumption information." In its comments, NYSEG strongly supported the recommendation that the 867 Monthly Usage transaction standard be revised in the manner suggested by the EDI Collaborative for both the Single Retailer and ESCO Bill Ready models.

Discussion

The recommendation of the EDI Collaborative regarding modifications to the current TS867 Monthly Usage Transaction Standard appears to have merit because ESCO/Marketers should be able to provide their customers with a level of bill detail similar to the level currently provided in either a utility bundled bill or a consolidated bill rendered by the Utility. Staff will issue a revised TS867 Monthly Usage Implementation Guide for comment.

Minor Technical Modifications

The following changes to the TS810 Implementation Guide have been made:

1. The data segment for transmitting "Next Read Date" has been removed from the Invoice standard. This data is already being supplied in the 867 Monthly Usage transaction.
2. Usage for the "Utility Customer Account Number" segment has been changed from Optional (Must Use) to Optional (Dependent). This segment is not sent in an 810 Summary Invoice.
3. The segment notes for the "Total Payments and Refunds" segment have been revised to indicate that this segment would only be sent in an 810 ESCO Summary Invoice when an ESCO/Marketer's payment had been applied or a refund is being issued to the ESCO/Marketer.

It is ordered:

1. The 810 Invoice - Single Retailer Transaction Standards are adopted with modifications as discussed herein.
2. This proceeding is continued.

(SIGNED)

Commissioner

Note: The following documents are available electronically from the Commission's web site at <http://www.dps.state.ny.us/98m0667.htm>.

Supplement	Description
SUPPLEMENT A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="630 428 1339 495">• TS810 Invoice Implementation Guide - Single Retailer Model<li data-bbox="630 506 1339 573">• Billing Business Processes - Single Retailer Model<li data-bbox="630 583 1339 682">• EDI 810 Data Dictionary Invoice Transaction - Single Retailer Invoices