

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held in the City of
Albany on November 4, 2002

COMMISSIONER PRESENT:

Maureen O. Helmer, Chairman

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

ORDER APPROVING ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE TEST PLANS FOR
REMITTANCE AND ACCOUNT ASSIGNMENT TRANSACTION STANDARDS

(Issued and Effective November 4, 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. By this Order, test plans are approved for the 820 Remittance Advice and the 248 Account Assignment Transaction Standards¹.

The proposed test plans were jointly developed by Staff, the EDI Collaborative, and a technical consultant (Systrends, Inc.). Notice of the proposed action was published in the State Register on July 3, 2002 (820 Remittance) and July 24, 2002 (248 Account Assignment) and comments were accepted through September 10, 2002. Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. and Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (Con Edison/O&R), and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation (NYSEG/RG&E) filed joint comments on these test plans.

¹ The 820 Remittance Advice transaction and 248 Account Assignment transaction were approved on July 31, 2002.

SUMMARY AND DISPOSITION OF COMMENTS

End-To-End Testing

The Commission previously approved the concept of end-to-end EDI testing² as a logical, comprehensive and integrated method to conduct Phase III ESCO/Marketer readiness testing in the period following the initial implementation of EDI in New York. As regards the test plans that are the subject of this order, Con Edison/O&R continue to criticize the end-to-end testing approach proposed in both test plans as going "far beyond" the testing of the data exchanges required by the 820 (or 248) transactions. Con Edison/O&R argue that this approach needlessly encompasses testing of each test partner's "back-end systems"³, which would require, they assert, a commitment of costly resources for the sole purpose of validating back-end systems. Con Edison/O&R argue that the intended purpose of the test plan is not to test integrated backend operations, but rather to test only the discrete, specific transactions that are the focus of the test plan. They recommend, therefore, that the test plan be modified to require only transaction-specific testing of the 820 and 248 transactions.

Discussion

The purpose of Phase III testing is to ensure that each ESCO/Marketer is prepared to exchange production EDI data for the relevant commodities and business transaction. This preparation and the resultant testing should provide assurances that an ESCO/Marketer's back-end systems are indeed ready for full EDI production. Differences in utility systems and operations, coupled with the need to keep testing costs reasonable, however, may make fully standardized and integrated

² Case 98-M-0667, In the Matter of Electronic Data Interchange, Order Approving Electronic Data Interchange Test Plans for Account Reinstatement and Utility Bill Ready/Rate Ready Billing Transaction Standards, Issued and Effective August 14, 2002.

³ Back-end systems are generally considered to be a company's customer information systems and databases.

back-end testing impractical. For these reasons, utilities were permitted some latitude in executing the end-to-end testing approach. Aspects such as the timing, coordination and scheduling of various test scenarios are best left to each utility to determine in consultation with their ESCO/Marketer test partners⁴. The key principle of the end-to-end approach is that all required test scenarios are completed in systematic, logical progressions, starting with enrollment and usage transactions and continuing through all other required transactions, as described in the test plans. The test plans sufficiently convey these principles. Con Edison/O&R's request is not approved.

Other Suggested Modifications

NYSEG/RG&E comment that several of the test scenario frame descriptions could be expanded to describe more accurately each particular test scenario frame⁵. The test plans have been modified to reflect many of the changes proposed by the utilities. With these modifications the test plans are approved. All parties should be ready to submit test files for Phase I certification within 45 days of the date this order is issued. Utility parties should also be ready to commence Phase II testing on these transaction standards within 45 days of approval of the remaining EDI billing test plans, as required by an Order dated August 23, 2002⁶.

⁴ For example, the test plans do not require, as Con Edison/O&R assert, that a single account be taken through every transaction from enrollment to remittance. Although the test plans do accommodate this type of approach, alternative methods of advancing ESCO/Marketers through the required test scenarios are also acceptable.

⁵ As an example, they recommend the description of frame F5 of Scenario RA001 ("820 Remittance Advice - Positive Payment Amount") be modified to state "Utility successfully creates and transmits 820 Remittance Advice to the E/M *with positive payment amount*" (proposed text in italics).

⁶ Case 98-M-0667, In the Matter of Electronic Data Interchange, Order Granting Petition for Rehearing to Revise Procedures, Issued and Effective August 23, 2002.

It is ordered:

1. The 820 Remittance Advice and 248 Account Assignment Test Plans are adopted with modifications, as discussed herein.

2. All affected parties are directed to commence Phase I testing of the 820 Remittance Advice and 248 Account Assignment Test Plans within 45 days of the issuance of this Order.

3. This proceeding is continued.

(SIGNED)

Commissioner

CASE 98-M-0667

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">• TOP Supplement 5 - 248 Account Assignment Test Plan
SUPPLEMENT B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TOP Supplement 6 - 820 Remittance Advice Test Plan