

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held in the City of
Albany on February 26, 2015

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Audrey Zibelman, Chair
Patricia L. Acampora
Gregg C. Sayre

COMMISSIONER EXCUSED:

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 March 2, 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 October 23,
2014.¹ EDI is the uniform system used by energy services
companies (ESCOs) and utilities for the electronic exchange of

¹ Case 12-M-0476 et al., supra, Report on EDI Standards
Development (submitted October 23, 2014)(EDI Report).

retail access data. The modifications to EDI approved in this order are necessary for the ESCOs and the utilities to implement requirements of the Commission's Order Taking Actions to Improve the Residential and Small Non-residential Retail Access Markets, issued in these proceedings on February 25, 2014 (February Order).²

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Commission established standards for EDI that ensure uniformity in business communications between ESCOs and utilities.³ From time to time, 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

² The Order Granting and Denying Petitions for Rehearing In Part (Rehearing Order), issued in these proceedings on February 6, 2015 requires EDI modifications, regarding ESCO provision of service to customers who participate in the Home Energy Assistance Program and utility-administered low income discount programs. Those modifications will be developed and implemented in accordance with the Rehearing Order, and are not addressed in this order.

³ Case 98-M-0667, supra, Opinion and Order on Implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (issued April 12, 2000).

Energy Assistance Program benefit or a participant in the utility-administered income-based discount program. In light of the stay granted in the Order Granting Requests for Rehearing and Issuing a Stay issued on April 25, 2014 in these proceedings, the EDI Working Group did not propose such an EDI transaction in the EDI Report. Furthermore, the recent Order Granting and Denying Petitions for Rehearing In Part, issued on February 6, 2015 in these proceedings, obviates the need for consideration of such an EDI transaction at this time. Second, 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-added," the EDI Working Group did not present a proposal for this transaction in the 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 June 24, 2014, the EDI Working Group filed a Request for Extension and Initial Report on EDI Standards Development. On July 1, 2014, the Secretary to the Commission granted an extension until October 23, 2014 for the EDI Working Group to file the report called for in the February Order. On October 23, 2014 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.

THE EDI REPORT

To effectuate the changes envisioned in the February Order, the EDI Report contains a proposed complete revision of EDI Standards Implementation Guides, Testing Plans and Business Process documents. As required by the February Order, the proposed Revised EDI Standards allow a utility to provide a reason code when it rejects an ESCO's enrollment of a customer. The Revised EDI Standards also allow the utility to provide the following information to an ESCO prior to or at the time of enrollment of a customer:⁴

- 1) A specific prospective customer's Installed Capacity (ICAP) tag, which indicates the customer's peak electricity demand;
- 2) Customer's number of meters and meter identifiers;
- 3) Whether the customer's account is settled with the ISO utilizing 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.

In addition to the changes required by the February Order, the EDI Working Group's Revised EDI Standards: remove utility specific references; modify/remove outdated language; address evolutions of the internet Data Transfer Mechanism; and, reflect the mature state of existing utility and ESCO EDI implementation. Further, the Revised EDI Standards also reflect

⁴ The ESCO must have the customer's authorization before it requests this information from the utility.

changes to accommodate modifications to utility systems anticipated to occur over the next twelve months.⁵

The EDI Report also addresses implementation requirements. It proposes an implementation period that may last up to eight months. The first six months are dedicated to completing required system updates. The EDI Report does state that utilities may be able to complete the required system updates prior to the end of the six month period. Once the system updates are completed, the EDI Report proposes a two month period for testing among the utilities and each ESCO. The EDI Report suggests that in some cases the testing can be streamlined by working with EDI service providers on behalf of a group of ESCOs, rather than with each individual ESCO.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT

In accordance with SAPA §202(1), a notice regarding the EDI Report was published in the State Register on November 19, 2014 [SAPA No. 98-M-0667SP60]. The comment period pursuant to SAPA §202(1)(a) ended on January 5, 2015.

The New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) submitted joint comments in response to the notice. NYSEG and RG&E state their support for the adoption of the EDI Report's proposed modifications. Further, they state their concurrence with the EDI Report's recommended implementation period. NYSEG and RG&E also state that the collaborative process entered into by the

⁵ Both National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation and National Grid are implementing upgrades to business systems that, in part, impact their EDI Implementation. The EDI Working Group included associated changes in the Revised EDI Standards documents. According to the Report, these changes provide for operational consistency among EDI trading partners and to provide for efficiency in EDI testing.

stakeholders has set the groundwork for future changes as they become necessary.

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. These include the provision of (1) a reason code when a utility rejects an ESCO's request to enroll a customer; and (2) additional information about potential customers that will assist ESCOs in offering those customers dynamic pricing options, demand response and tools to help manage energy use. The EDI Report included proposed Revised EDI Standards that incorporate these modifications. In addition the proposed Revised EDI Standards include modifications that allow for the effective functioning of EDI. These modifications were achieved through a collaborative process of interested stakeholders. The proposed modifications are approved.

The EDI Report also proposes an eight month implementation period. That period includes six months to accomplish required system upgrades, and an additional two months for testing of the EDI standards. The EDI Report states that the required system upgrades may be completed in less than six months, and that working with EDI service providers rather than individual ESCOs may result in a streamlined testing schedule. The proposed implementation period is adopted, but the utilities and ESCOs are encouraged to streamline the implementation process to the extent possible. Further, the EDI Working Group should consider ways to streamline the EDI development, implementation and testing process. The Working Group should submit a report of its findings within two months of the date of this order.

The Commission orders:

1. Revisions to the EDI Standards documents, as set forth in the EDI Report submitted in these proceedings on October 23, 2014, are adopted.

2. Electric and gas distribution utilities that have tariffed provisions providing for retail access are directed to submit a letter to the Secretary, no later than six months from the date of this order, confirming that the utility has completed any system upgrades necessary to implement the Revised EDI Standards adopted by this order.

3. Electric and gas distribution utilities that have tariffed provisions providing for retail access are directed to submit a letter to the Secretary, no later than eight months from the date of this order, confirming that the utility has completed the required testing of the Revised EDI Standards and that those standards are operational.

4. The Secretary in her sole discretion may extend the deadlines set forth in this order. Any request for an extension must be in writing, must include a justification for the extension, and must be filed at least one day prior to any affected deadline.

5. These proceedings are continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS
Secretary