



## Gas Industry Standards Board

1100 Louisiana, Suite 4925, Houston, Texas 77002

Phone: (713) 356-0060, Fax: (713) 356-0067, E-mail: gisb@aol.com

Home Page: www.gisb.org

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**TO:** Business Practices Subcommittee Chairs: Greg Lander, Producer Segment Vacancy, Diane McVicker, Norm Walker (absent), Robert McAnally (absent)  
Posting for Interested Industry Participants

**FROM:** Rae McQuade, Executive Director

**RE:** Final Minutes from the Business Practices Subcommittee Meeting

**DATE:** July 29, 1999

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**GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD**  
**GISB BUSINESS PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Teleconference Call: July 29, 1999**  
**FINAL MINUTES**

### **I. Administrative**

Mr. Lander chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants. Ms. McQuade identified the participants in a roll call. Mr. Lander gave the antitrust advice. The agenda was adopted with no changes. The redlined minutes of July 8 were modified during the review and accepted as final.

### **II. EDM Requests**

**R97104** Submitted by TransCapacity

**Request:** The request is to add a new standard to the current GISB Electronic Delivery Mechanism standards. This proposed standard deals with testing, and as such can and should be read in conjunction with existing GISB Standard No. 4.3.14 which reads in part: "The industry should use standard policies and guidelines for testing new data sets."

Proposed Standard:

"Testing of new data sets includes testing of the current and/or future electronic delivery mechanisms including related EDI implementation issues (i.e., enveloping and security). Standard policies and guidelines should be developed to test these aspects."

While standard 4.1.14 indicates that the industry use standard testing methodology for testing of the GISB standardized datasets, this is only a piece of the overall testing which must take place. TransCapacity believes that this standardized testing methodology should be applied to the underlying communication methodology (Electronic Delivery Mechanisms), security features, and EDI enveloping, as well as to the datasets themselves.

This new standard would apply to testing of the electronic delivery mechanisms and communication procedures. Mere testing of datasets, without the surrounding methods of communication, accomplishes neither the purpose nor spirit of the existing standards. Standardized testing methodologies are clearly beneficial to the goal of a seamless electronic marketplace for natural gas. Participants in the GISB standards initiation and adoption process recognized



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this in enacting the existing GISB standard No. 4.1.14. However, this standard - as written - is arguably applicable only to the datasets themselves. (Though this is not TransCapacity's view, it can rationalize a reading of the standard in this manner.)

The proposed additional standard language will clarify the issue that standardized testing also applies to the electronic delivery mechanism including related EDI implementation issues (i.e., enveloping and security). This will ease implementation for all parties involved and will identify any potential obstacles earlier in the process. Certainly testing has a cost associated with it. However, this testing must be undertaken, and currently is. The only difference is the standardization aspect that this language would add. Therefore, the true incremental cost is marginal, and we believe it will be recovered through a less labor intensive (and smoother) implementation down the line.

Work Paper<sup>1</sup>: The group reviewed and proposed changes to the proposed standards below (carryover from July 8 meeting minutes):

### **Proposed Standard 4.2.x**

Testing data sets between trading partners includes testing of:

- a) intended business results,
- b) proposed electronic delivery mechanisms, and
- c) related EDI/EDM and, where supported, FF/EDM implementation issues.

Testing should include enveloping, security, data validity, and standards compliance (e.g. ANSI X12 and GISB EDM Related Standards).

### **Proposed Standard 4.3.x**

When the receiver of:

- 1) a Nomination,
- 2) a Pre-determined Allocation, or,
- 3) a Request for Confirmation,

has determined to change the business rule(s) it will apply to the processing of (and/or response to) one or more of these documents; or, when the sender of:

- 1) a Confirmation Response (solicited and unsolicited),
- 2) a Scheduled Quantity,
- 3) a Scheduled Quantity for Operator,
- 4) an Allocation,
- 5) a Shipper Imbalance, or,
- 6) an Invoice

has determined to change the business rule(s) it will apply to the generating of (and/or content within) one or more of these documents, then it should notify its trading partners of same at least two weeks in advance of the change(s). The notification should include identification of the data element(s) that are changing (or whose content is changing), the intended business result of such change(s) in the business rule(s), and the effective date of such change(s).

For the purposes of this standard, a business rule change is any change in:

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<sup>1</sup> The work paper is revised with changes supported by the submitter during the discussion on the work paper.



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- a) the presence and/or the acceptable content of a data element which is received by the trading partner sending notice;
  - b) a new business response to an accepted data element which is received by the trading partner sending notice;
  - c) a new business response to the acceptable content of a data element which is received by the trading partner sending notice; or,
  - d) a new intended business result to be communicated to a receiver by the trading partner sending notice;

Absent mutual agreement between the affected trading partners to the contrary, trading partners notifying their sending or receiving trading partners of a change(s) under this standard should provide the means to test such change(s) during at least a two week time period prior to the effective date of the change(s).

Trading partners receiving notice of such change(s) from their trading partner should be prepared not to implement such change(s) even after testing has been completed, as the notifying trading partner is permitted to cancel or postpone such change(s). Notifying trading partners canceling or postponing the effective date of change(s) should provide affected trading partners with notice of cancellation or postponement at least one business day prior to the applicable effective date.

Discussion: There were several minor changes made for clarity.

Action: Passes unanimously.

**R97103** Submitted by Enron Administrative Corp.

Request: The version and revision level of technology standards\* adopted by GISB and referenced in GISB standards should be clearly stated in the applicable standard(s). Any implementation of GISB standards should, at a minimum, be compatible with this version. Changes to the version and revision level of open standards should be made only through the GISB standards process.

\*Note: This refers only to technology standards formulated by other standards organizations such as the Internet Engineering Task Force and the World Wide Web Consortium.

Work Paper: [With changes to the proposed standard made during the discussion.]

GISB Standard 4.3.59 (EII S33) states:

"Providers of Customer Activities EBB/EDM sites should ensure that the site operates on the "Technical Characteristics of the Client Workstation" described in the appendix of the Electronic Delivery Mechanism Related Standards manual. This appendix, listing examples of hardware and software configurations that providers should meet, should be reviewed and updated by the Future Technology Task Force, at a minimum, by the spring of each year and presented to the GISB Executive Committee for adoption by the end of June."

The intent of the proposed standard below is to extend the scope of 4.3.59 to cover EDI/EDM and FF/EDM so that all three delivery mechanisms will be implemented in accordance with the appropriate versions of open technology standards, such as HTTP, HTML, and PGP.



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### Proposed Standard:

EDI/EDM and FF/EDM designated sites should utilize the version and release level, or a fully compatible version and release level, of the technology standards listed in the Related Standards section of the GISB Electronic Delivery Mechanism Related Standards guide. The Future Technology Task Force should review the version and release level of these technology standards at a minimum of once per year, and recommend any changes to the Executive Committee for adoption so that such changes can be included in the next version of GISB Standards Manuals.

**Discussion:** Minor changes were made to the proposed standard. It was offered that similar changes should be made to the GISB Standard No. 4.3.59, which will be noticed and addressed at the next BPS meeting. In the proposed standard, additional investigation on the wording "designated" as it applies to FF/EDM and EDI/EDM sites will occur before the next meeting. It was noted that the "Related Standards" section of all of the standards manuals would be the same across all standards manuals. Mr. Keisler asked if there is an appendix to the EDM Standards Manual, which may require reference. There will be further investigation in this item before the next call. This will be voted on at the next call.

**Action:** Vote will be taken at the next meeting.

### III. Ranking of Requests for the General Category

Mr. Lander suggested the following order for addressing the general category of requests assigned to BPS.

- |     |         |  |
|-----|---------|--|
| (1) | R96022  | Sponsorship by TransCapacity           |
| (2) | R97113  | Sponsorship by Exxon                   |
| (3) | C97001B | Sponsorship by Reliant Energy -- NorAm |
| (4) | R97046  | Sponsorship by TransCapacity           |

There was no disagreement on the order suggested. For C97001B, Mr. Keisler noted that this is a common codes issue and should be given to the Common Codes Subcommittee. Ms. Scott noted that the recent work of the Common Codes Subcommittee address this item. Ms. Hess added that she is not sure that this request was transferred to the BPS. It was noted that this discussion will continue when Request No. C97001B is addressed on a BPS agenda.

### IV. Agenda for next meeting

The next teleconference meeting, to be held on Thursday, August 5, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. central, will review the following requests for discussion and possible vote, unless otherwise noted:

- EDM Request Nos. R97103 Discussion and possible vote, including conforming modifications to GISB Standard No. 4.3.59
- General Request Nos. R96022 Submitted by TransCapacity  
R97113 Submitted by Exxon  
C97001B Submitted by Reliant Energy -- NorAm  
R97046 Sponsorship by TransCapacity

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. central.



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### V. Meeting Attendees & Voting Record

Name	Company	Email Address <sup>2</sup>	Voting?	R97104	GISB Member
<b>PIPELINES:</b>					
Kelly Adolf	Williston Basin	brookr@wbip.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Theresa Hess	Enron - Transwestern	thess@enron.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kim Van Pelt	CMS Trunkline	kvanpelt@cmsenergy.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jim Keisler	Transco		Yes	Yes	No
<b>END USERS:</b>					
Diane McVicker	Salt River Project	dbmcvick@srpnet.com	Yes	Absent	Yes
<b>SERVICES:</b>					
<b>Greg Lander</b>	TransCapacity	exec@tcapserv.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jim Buccigross	Registry	legaljb@tcapserv.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gary Payne	Enron Capital and Trade	gpayne@ect.enron.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Randy Young	Koch Midstream	young0r@kochind.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donna Scott	Enron Administrative Corp.	dscott2@ect.enron.com	Yes	Yes	Yes

<sup>2</sup> The privacy policy stated on the GISB Web Site ("www.gisb.org") governs the use of information, such as email addresses, collected by GISB on its members and meeting participants. Members and participants are not required to give such information to GISB.