

North American Energy Standards Board

1100 Louisiana, Suite 3625, Houston, Texas 77002
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Home Page: www.naesb.org

TO: Business Practices Subcommittee Chairs, Interested Industry Participants
FROM: Rae McQuade, Executive Director
RE: Final Minutes from the Business Practices Subcommittee Meeting, October 24, 2002
DATE: November 1, 2002

1. Administrative

Ms. Van Pelt opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CCT and gave the anti-trust advice. Participants on the call introduced themselves. The agenda was adopted as posted. The 08/19/2002 meeting minutes were adopted as modified. The 10/09/2002 meeting minutes were adopted as modified.

2. Review of the following Business Practices Requests:

R02007 Tennessee Gas Pipeline Discussion and possible vote

There was a brief explanation of the request and then some discussion was held. Nisource asked several request related questions and we waited for the requester to attend the call so we could discuss the meat of Nisource's concerns.

Nisource expressed the opinion that the Standard Business Practices concept is being abused by continuous specific requests by specific pipelines for codes that pertain to their business concerns versus the business concerns of the industry, in general. They feel that, as a result, the number of such specific codes adopted to date that are "sender's option" is unmanageable. For example, any pipeline, at any time, could implement/utilize any of these codes without notice, at their option and that no one can predict what the consequences to shippers may be as a result. They feel that pipelines have more practical and more timely means of advising customers of something like discount violations (per the request) such as EBB and email etc. and that "senders option" type codes do not rise to the level of a standardized practice by their very nature. Instead, pipelines should work closely with their customers to design ways of communicating such specific information outside of the BPS process. Nisource is also concerned that by adoption of the codes requested by Tennessee the invoice, via a cryptic code, will be the only communication the shipper receives regarding such violations of discount agreements.

Tennessee explained that this business practice is an existing business practice and that they would like to be able to send this information comparably on the EDI Transportation Invoice like they send the invoice on their paper invoice or display it on their Customer Activities web site. It was also explained that, in effect, if BPS chooses not to standardize this business practice, this does not preclude Tennessee from using it or, for that matter, any other pipeline. However, it would mean that the business practice would not be implemented uniformly across all of the pipelines allowing for such information. Tennessee explained to the subcommittee that they felt this information would assist in their dispute resolution process because it was giving the customer more information on the Invoice. It should be noted that this information is given in EDI via code values and not free-form text. Tennessee explained that this was a customer service issue for them and that they felt that it was important for them to have the EDI aspect standardized. It also noted that if other companies are using this type of business practice, this implementation would offer them a comparable way of sending the information in EDI.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

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Motion (motioned by Mark Gracey, seconded by Pete Connor)

Instruct the Information Requirements subcommittee to support the sender's option business practice of sending a Notes Code data element and its corresponding code values in the NAESB WGQ Transportation Invoice 3.4.1. Its definition is proposed as "provides additional information about an invoice line item."

After further discussion, it was determined that the request will be placed on the next agenda for discussion and possible vote.

3. Next Meeting(s) and Agenda

Friday, November 1, 2002

R02007

Tennessee Gas Pipeline

Discussion and Possible Vote

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

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Meeting Attendees and Voting Record

Attendee	Organization	NAESB Member?
Pipelines:		
Kim Van Pelt	CMS-Panhandle Eastern	√
Iris King	Dominion Transmission Inc.	√
Kathryn Burch	Texas Eastern	√
Mark Gracey	Tennessee Gas Pipeline	√
Services:		
Tammy Lee Jacquet	Duke Energy Mktg & Trading	√
Producers:		
End Users:		
Bill Hebenstreit	El Paso Merchant Energy	√
LDCs:		
Steve Sullivan	Con Edison	√
Pete Connor	NiSource	√
Andy Dotterweich	Consumers Energy	
Audrey Bragg	Washington Gas	√
Associations:		
GISB Office:		

Bold signifies a BPS Chair

nv – not voting