CGI

**Comments**

To: Gas Industry Standards Board

From: Carl Caldwell

Date: May 31, 2000

Subject: Request R97064D and R99035

**R97064D**

CGI would like to thank the members of the Technical Sub-Committee and acknowledge the hard work done in completing the request R97064-D.

In reviewing the nomination and scheduled quantity transaction; a change has been made in the technical implementation of the pathed non-threaded nomination. It is clear that on the threaded segment of a pathed non-threaded nomination that the population of up and down identifier codes are ambiguous. But the annotations in the implementation guide create by the Technical Sub-Committee (see below) are a change in GISB business practice standards that need to be forwarded to BPS for their consideration.

“For GISB, the Upstream Identifier Code and Downstream Identifier Code are not used when the Model Type is Pathed Non-Threaded (Threaded Segment) (CS05 = 'T'). In this case, send "N/A".”

Based on the comments attributed to Kim Van Pelt in another request, that the new Nomination data set that was approved by ANSI requires that upstream/ downstream party initiates a loop, with all of the related data under that party (e.g., Package ID, ranks, upstream/downstream contract). The upstream/downstream party is the only information that is mandatory at that level. None of the other data is required, and therefore it is anchored by the party information. So GISB must establish some default identifier so a thread segment can be transmitted without ANSI translation errors.

This issue of GISB business practice standards that need to be forwarded to BPS for their consideration.

**R99035**

CGI recommends to accept the recommendation of the EDM subcommittee.

The current GISB Electronic Delivery Mechanism for transmitting EDI files across the Internet has been an unappreciated success story. The GISB EDI/EDM provides a reliable and secure means for business to business transfer of EDI transactions. The immediate responsiveness of HTTP time stamping and error processing business practices provide gas trading partners with the same level of transactional assurance as the an EBB or Customer Activity Web Site.

With the movement of the retail gas transactions and electricity transactions to the Internet; the debate on what EDM to choose is emerging. The choices which GISB faced a few years ago are being discussed again; VANs, e-mail, FTP, HTTP, IETF AS1 and proprietary protocols. Some GISB member companies involved with the retail and electric industries wanted to use the GISB EDM given the success of the mechanism. Industry parties argued that a wholesale gas only standard may not have broad enough acceptance with the software industry to be a good solution for retail and electric. As a result of those comments, some GISB member companies approached the Internet Engineering Taskforce (IETF) which creates standards for the Internet. The EDI-INT subcommittee of the IETF had created an e-mail EDM draft standard called AS1 which a few companies have tested. The GISB member companies meet with the IETF EDI-INT subcommittee to create a new IETF draft standard based on the GISB EDM. The result of their work is the "HTTP Transport for Secure EDI" which is referred to in the request R99035.

The technical changes proposed in Request R99035 do not change any of the GISB mandatory business practice within the GISB EDM. The changes represented in the recommendation are fairly technical changes based on changes in Internet protocols over the past few years. The "HTTP Transport for Secure EDI" draft standard includes number of options for encryption, digital signatures and enveloping. The request adopts certain options within the "HTTP Transport for Secure EDI".

By GISB moving to an IETF standard, the natural gas industry will be able to take advantage of resources and expertise outside the industry to improve the process in the future. In addition, this new IETF standard is largely based on the existing GISB EDM standard. With the adoption of these changes the Retail or Electric industries looking to adopt an EDM will now have to seriously consider the IETF/GISB standard.

Sincerely,

Carl Caldwell