

memorandum



Date: 9/10/99
To: GISB
From: Mark Scheel
RE: **EDM Standards Manuals Comments**

I would like to acknowledge the hard work done by FTTF and the high quality of the resulting work product. After reviewing the proposed version 1.4 EDM Standards Manuals, I have the following minor changes to suggest:

1. The Executive Summary does not mention all three of the electronic delivery mechanisms that will be addressed in the manuals. It only mentions the EDI mechanism and therefore should be amended to also include some mention of the Web site (EBB) and flat file (FF) mechanisms. One possible replacement for the first sentence of the Executive Summary that would accomplish this is as follows:

"The Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB) has developed standards for accomplishing electronic commerce over the Internet using ANSI ASC X12 (EDI/EDM), flat files (FF/EDM), and Customer Activities Web site presentations (EBB/EDM)."

2. The Overview of the Business Process and Practices section starts out with a short paragraph on "Where Internet EDM fits in Gas Industry Commerce". Again, no mention is made of the Web site (EBB) or flat file (FF) mechanisms as

being part of the scope of Internet EDM and it should. A possible replacement for the first sentence is as follows:

“The scope of Internet EDM is to address electronic commerce over the Internet using Customer Activities Web site presentations (EBB/EDM), flat files (FF), and ANSI ASC X12 (EDI/EDM).”

3. The Overview of the Business Process and Practices section also includes a discussion of “Business Reasons for Using Internet EDM”. Since the only electronic delivery mechanism discussed under this section is EDI/EDM, either the title should be changed to “Business Reasons for Using Internet EDI/EDM” or there should be additional discussion points giving reasons for using the other mechanisms, as well.
4. Under the Technical Implementation section for EBB/EDM, an additional bullet under the "what is covered in GISB Standards?" section should be "Common screen layouts". The common Form/Matrix layout of the screens is a major component of the Customer Activities Web sites that will help provide the common "look and feel" that was desired.
5. The Matrix description in the EBB/EDM section of the manuals should include language that makes it clear that even though nominations data entry should be available on the Form, the TSP may also provide for nominations data entry on the Matrix. This will be important to those designing Web sites since this option, although not required, does offer more flexibility to the TSP in satisfying its customer needs. Possible language to capture this concept is as follows:

“The EBB/EDM standards provide the option for the Transportation Service Provider (TSP) to also provide for nominations data entry on the Matrix in addition to data entry on the Form.”

6. One area that may need to be incorporated in the EDM manual is a section on the Electronic Notice Delivery Standards. For example, one of these standards requires that the Scheduled Quantity Web page provide a mechanism to allow the display of those items that result in intraday bump reductions before all others or allow for the selection of only those items that result in reductions due to intraday bumps. There are also minimum standards outlined for what information needs to be provided in the notices and how. This would be very important to know for those designing Customer Activities Web sites as well as for those upgrading their Informational Posting sites and should be outlined in the manuals.

All of the changes suggested, with the exception of the last point, are more cosmetic in nature and should not require any major substantive change to the document. The last point would require more substantive changes since it would involve potentially adding a new section to the document. Any consideration that can be given to these suggestions would be appreciated and I believe would improve the manuals by making certain points more clear to those reading them and trying to comply with the Internet requirements by June 2000.