



Gas Industry Standards Board

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HOME PAGE: www.gisb.org

Report to the Executive Committee
Regarding Ebb Internet Implementation Task Force Progress and Plans
August 17, 1998

GENERAL CONCEPTS

1. Start with the Camel model as the beginning to guide development per direction of the Executive Committee, and include the minority issues.
2. Slot the survey items into the Camel model as the items are determined to be needed. Specifically, the EII task force should identify data elements for the new transactions.
3. Do the EDI, flat file and web site development concurrently, as appropriate.
4. Develop the standards initially following the business function order of nominations, flowing gas, invoicing, capacity release and contracts.
5. Recognize that the dates mentioned in the Camel model are aggressive and should be followed to the maximum extent possible. The EII Task Force will recommend adjustments to the dates as work progresses, as necessary.
6. EII will follow recognized practices, EDI or otherwise, in developing standards for natural gas electronic communications to the maximum extent possible.
7. The business result of a transaction should be the same regardless of the communication method or technology used.
8. Cost and cost recovery will not be discussed by this group.
9. The same business result should occur regardless of the electronic deliver mechanism: this principle should guide the definition of the business process, data content of the transaction, and the timing of the transaction.



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EII TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Development of standards for navigation are within the scope of the EII task force's responsibility.
2. Development of standards for general screen design are within the scope of the EII task force's responsibility.
3. Determination of information that is applicable to on-line transactions versus information that is applicable to EDI data set processing or flat file processing are within the scope of the EII task force's responsibility.
4. Any business practice standards needed as the survey items are addressed are within the scope of the EII task force's responsibility.
5. The detailed plan to address the categories of survey items will be developed as each category's work is initiated.
6. The EII task force will determine when to transfer development to other groups. For example, data element definitions would be developed by Information Requirements Subcommittee, X12 mapping efforts would be performed by the Technical Subcommittee, and the Future Technology Task Force would address security and redundancy. These efforts are within the scope of the EII task force's responsibility.
7. Timing of EBB transition to the linternet is within the scope of the EII task force's responsibility.

TREATMENT OF THE SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Accept the E&Y document as an informational document to be considered as the EII task force reviews each business function.
2. The EII task force will discuss nominations on August 21 and survey respondents will be notified as such.



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TIMELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

1. Recommendations from task forces on existing nominations related standards for transactional web sites and modifications to EDI data sets as a result of the survey responses would be completed by October 15. The Executive Committee would consider and vote on the recommendations on November 19. Membership ratification would occur in December. Implementation by industry would be expected by June 1999.
2. Recommendations from task forces on existing flowing gas related standards for transactional web sites and modifications to EDI data sets as a result of the survey responses would be completed by November 12. The Executive Committee would consider and vote on the recommendations on December 17. Membership ratification would occur in January 1999. Implementation by industry would be expected by November 1999.
3. Recommendations from task forces on existing invoicing related standards for transactional web sites and modifications to EDI data sets as a result of the survey responses would be completed by mid-March 1999. The Executive Committee would consider and vote on the recommendations in mid-April 1999. Membership ratification would occur in mid-June. Implementation by industry would be expected by April 2000.
4. Recommendations from task forces on existing capacity release related standards for transactional web sites and modifications to EDI data sets as a result of the survey responses would be completed by mid-May 1999. The Executive Committee would consider and vote on the recommendations in mid-June 1999. Membership ratification would occur in mid-July. Implementation by industry would be expected by June 2000.



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RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR ACCESS.

1. Internet protocols should be used for accessing all industry business functions.
2. Web browser interface should use Internet compatible common browser software.
3. Web site should be accessible via the public Internet using standard browser software.
4. Web site standards should not preclude various levels of user response and inter-activity. Minimum levels of user response and inter-activity should be developed.
5. Web site standards should not dictate or limit back-end development technology or systems. Web sites should be accessible by a standard client configuration.
- 5a. "Standard client configuration" is one that allows simultaneous access to multiple industry web sites.
6. Each implementation of a current proprietary business function category on EBBs should remain available until such time as that business function category is tested and implemented via a Web site. The business function categories are defined as nominations related standards, flowing gas related standards, invoicing related standards, capacity release related standards and contracts related standards.

RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR NAVIGATION

12. Standardized Web site navigational structure should be developed to provide access to business functions. The hierarchical relationship, structure and order for navigation on the Web site should be established in a standardized manner.
13. Additional Informational Postings under Standard No. 4.3.6 which are not yet standardized for Web sites should be communicated over the Internet via a "common look and feel" standardized Web page.
14. Standard navigation should be used to access all business functions on industry Web sites.
16. Navigation through the menus should be consistent for location and technique.
17. "Customer Activities" should be the term used to refer to the business function categories relating to Nominations, Flowing Gas, Invoicing, Capacity Release, Contracts and other business functions on industry Web sites.



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19.A. The labels for "Customer Activities" Web sites should appear if applicable in the Navigational Area as follows:

- Nominations
- Flowing Gas
- Invoicing
- Capacity Release
- Contracts
- Informational Postings
- Site Map

Links supporting Mutually Agreeable categories should precede Informational Postings.

20. The sub-categories and the labels for the category of Nominations should appear if applicable in the Navigational Area as follows:

- Nomination
- Nomination Quick Response
- Request for Confirmation
- Confirmation Response
- Confirmation Response Quick Response
- Scheduled Quantity
- Scheduled Quantity for Operators

Links supporting Mutually Agreeable sub-categories will follow these links. This does not preclude a further breakdown of sub-subcategories within each sub-category from being listed in the Navigational Area.

21. The sub-categories and the labels for the category of Flowing Gas should appear if applicable in the Navigational Area as follows:

- Pre-determined Allocation
- Allocation
- Shipper Imbalance
- Measurement Information
- Measured Volume Audit Statement

Links supporting Mutually Agreeable sub-categories will follow these links. This does not preclude a further breakdown of sub-subcategories within each sub-category from being listed in the Navigational Area.

23. The sub-categories and the labels for the category of Invoicing should appear if applicable in the Navigational Area as follows:

- Invoice
- Service Requester Level Charge/Allowance Invoice
- Payment Remittance
- Statement of Account



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Links supporting Mutually Agreeable sub-categories will follow these links. This does not preclude a further breakdown of sub-subcategories within each sub-category from being listed in the Navigational Area.

24. The sub-categories and the labels for the category of Capacity Release should appear if applicable in the Navigational Area as follows:
- Offers
 - Bids
 - Awards

Links supporting Mutually Agreeable sub-categories will follow these links. This does not preclude a further breakdown of sub-subcategories within each sub-category from being listed in the Navigational Area.

- 24.A The sub-categories and the labels for the category of Contracts should appear if applicable in the Navigational Area as follows:
- To be Determined

Links supporting Mutually Agreeable sub-categories will follow these links. This does not preclude a further breakdown of sub-subcategories within each sub-category from being listed in the Navigational Area.

RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR CONTENT AND FORMAT

26. "Customer Activities" Web sites should be designed for ease of user interaction.
27. A Web page may display information (data elements and code values) from multiple functionally related EDI datasets (i.e. nominated volume and scheduled volume may appear on the same Web screen).
28. There will generally be a one-to-one relationship between data elements used for EDI and/or flat files and the data displayed on Web pages.
29. GISB standard code value descriptions should be displayed for code values where appropriate.
30. Standard field name descriptors or abbreviations, and navigation and functional screen layouts should be used on all "Customer Activities" Web pages. [No standards for font size, colors, etc.] Functional screen layouts should be developed as standards which would divide each transactional screen into separate areas and define which data elements belong in that specific area.