



Gas Industry Standards Board

1100 Louisiana, Suite 3625, Houston, Texas 77002

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

Home Page: www.gisb.org

GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD XML SUBCOMMITTEE DRAFT XML PLAN

Directive

On October 12, 2000, the GISB Executive Committee endorsed the following actions, which comprise the recommendation from the XML Subcommittee on August 24, 2000:

GISB should:

- continue to explore the incorporation of XML into EDM,
- consider working with other industry XML work groups, like UIG XML, to see if any synergies could exist for the development of XML standards, and
- provide a plan to the Executive Committee on how XML could work within the existing GISB standards framework.

The EC also provided the following guidance:

“The plan that the GISB XML Subcommittee would devise as part of the endorsed recommendation should provide for an orderly transition, should the determination be made at a later date by the EC that XML should be offered as an electronic communication choice. The effort will benefit from the work that has been directed toward development of EDI transactions. Mr. Spangler noted that this pilot effort could be included on the plan.”

Plan Description

Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) is a tag-based framework used primarily to exchange data in a universally understood format. It could be used as a vehicle for exchanging information in a batch (similar to EDI) or online (interactive web site) mode. XML is gaining in popularity -- several standards groups have undertaken its review, and some have endorsed its use. GISB has determined to prepare and carry out a plan, the end result of which would be to answer the questions: “Should GISB develop standards using XML, and if so, should GISB proceed in consideration of a pilot transaction?” Below is the description of the plan.

The XML Plan has 3 areas of development: (1) investigation of other related groups’ activities, (2) planning and execution of a pilot test, and (3) preparation of an action plan. Target dates are set along with checkpoints with the Executive Committee to review results and gain endorsement to go forward with the plan. Below is a description of each area of development.

1. Investigation of Other Groups’ Related Activities: Several related groups (ERCOT, OASIS, and CUBR/EEI/NEM) have already endorsed the use of XML. They may have work products that could aid GISB in its plan for a pilot test and its continued evaluation of XML.
2. Planning and Execution of a Pilot Test: The transaction for a pilot test should be chosen and the step in the pilot test outlined with companies identified to perform the test. Criteria that should be met for the test to be considered successful should also be prepared. The EC should endorse the pilot test plan prior to its execution.



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3. Preparation of an Action Plan: Based on the results of the Pilot Test, a report should be prepared explaining the results of the test and proposing an Action Plan for going forward. If the Action Plan indicates that the XML standards should be developed by GISB, it should include an orderly transition plan for EC review and approval.



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Item Description	Completion
1 Investigate how other related groups are incorporating XML into their bodies of work – UIG, ERCOT, and CUBR/EEI/NEM.	1 st Qtr 2001
2 Determine how to benefit from their activities and results.	1 st Qtr 2001
3 Review GISB transactions and planned development to identify a pilot transaction(s) and its usage(s).	1 st Qtr 2001
4 Identify possible testers for the pilot(s) and application(s) or usage(s) of XML.	1 st Qtr 2001
5a Review plan to date with the EC, including pilot test plan(s) and how GISB has benefited and will benefit from the work done by other groups.	1 st Qtr 2001
5b Endorsement of the EC to go forward will be requested.	2 nd Qtr 2001
Assuming EC endorsement of the pilot project:	
6 Develop transaction(s), prepare for and schedule the pilot test(s).	2 nd Qtr 2001
7 Conduct the pilot test(s).	3 rd Qtr 2001
8 Report on the results of the pilot test(s).	4 th Qtr 2001
9 Prepare a plan for next steps, including how XML could be incorporated into the existing body of GISB standards, should the recommendation from the XML Subcommittee be to go forward.	4 th Qtr 2001
10 Present findings of the benefits received from other groups, the results of pilot project, and recommendations for next steps including how XML could be incorporated into GISB standards should the determination be to do so.	4 th Qtr 2001
