



## Gas Industry Standards Board

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Home Page: www.gisb.org

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**TO:** GISB EDM Subcommittee Participants & Posting for Interested Industry Participants

**FROM:** Rae McQuade, Executive Director  
Carl Caldwell, Chairman, GISB EDM Subcommittee

**RE:** Final Minutes from the GISB EDM Subcommittee Meeting

**DATE:** January 21, 2000

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### **GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD**

#### **GISB EDM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**Conference Call: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., January 21, 2000**

#### **FINAL MINUTES**

#### **I. Administrative**

Mr. Caldwell welcomed participants. Mr. Caldwell read the roll call. Ms. Corcoran read the antitrust statement. Mr. Caldwell stated that the last meeting was unavoidably canceled based on the unavailability of himself and any replacement chairperson. The agenda was modified to delete the third bullet under item no. 2, change the word "recommendation" to "work paper" throughout the agenda, add the request number to the agenda (R99036), remove the word "additional" from the second bullet under item no. 2. The minutes from the November 22nd meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting. The agenda as modified was adopted unanimously. Mr. Caldwell noted that there was a work paper posted for this call that the participants should have read: "Proposed Modifications for EDIINT AS2 Convergence; Revision 2".

#### **II. AS2 Convergence Issue**

New participants to the discussion of the AS2 convergence requested a background on what request originated this taskforce. Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Brooks described meetings held at the state regulatory agencies over the past year. Each state that is considering unbundling of their local gas and/or electric companies has been addressing how information should be exchanged electronically between the state regulated company and market participants. The debate on the Electronic Delivery Mechanism centered around three alternatives 1) VANs 2) IETF EDI-INT AS1 and 3) GISB EDM. VANs being the traditional but costly mechanism. AS1 is the new proposed IETF standard which sends EDI documents via email with digital signatures. The GISB EDM model using HTTP to send EDI documents between trading partners. Some companies made the argument that because the GISB EDM is a standard only used by interstate gas participants. An argument was made that a better solution for the state electric and gas companies is to utilize IETF EDI-INT AS1 because it is a standard for all companies trading EDI over the Internet; not just gas companies. Mr. Brooks described as a result of those state meetings; the IETF EDI-INT committee met with companies using the GISB EDM or a variation of GISB EDM (Automotive Industry Group). The result of those IETF meetings was the IETF EDI-INT AS2 standard which incorporates all the functionality of the GISB EDM plus other options for trading partners. Based on the confusion about the GISB standard only applying to gas companies, the cost disadvantages of VANs and the uncertainty of using email to trade EDI documents (AS1). A request was submitted by Group 8760, one of the GISB members who participated at state meetings. The GISB Executive Committee triaged the



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request R99036 to the GISB EDM Subcommittee with a high priority.

Ms. Van Pelt questioned whether this group should be addressing this issue when the industry is trying to determine what standards group, if any, should exist for electric and gas retail companies.

A number of participants questioned whether the GISB EDM Subcommittee was the proper group to evaluate the technical aspects of the change. A number of participants could not readily identify the business practice changes in the posted work paper. It was suggested that a business overview / executive summary needs to be added to highlight those changes.

Mr. Brooks agreed to review the changes outlined in the work paper from a business practice standpoint and add an executive summary to the document.

1. Technical compliance with a broader standard (IETF)
2. Mutually agreeable business practice to protect sender of a document (non-repudiation)
3. Mutually agreeable business practice to digitally sign Error Notifications.

Mr. Lehn suggested the business benefits of moving to the AS2 are:

1. broader standard allows potential to more readily, electronically trade with others (e.g., electric utilities)
2. ability to obtain signed receipts allows the sender of a transaction to "prove" that the recipient received it

Mr. Lehn also added that "broader standard makes it more likely that packages can be purchased to replace custom written apps currently in place to support GISB EDM"

Some participants suggested that even if we make the suggested changes to the GISB EDM to comply with the AS2 standard; states or other companies could select a different variation of AS2 which would require more changes to the companies custom software. Also what is the value of changing the GISB EDM implementation for interstate pipelines? Some debate focused on the value of utilizing a package application versus a custom solution.

The AS2 convergence work paper will be sent to the FTTF for their meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The FTTF will review the work paper to verify the technical specification and examples. In addition, FTTF should review the work paper to verify that the changes do not require any mandatory changes to business practices between trading partners.



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### **III. Next Agenda**

The next meeting is a face to face meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2000 -- 9:00 a.m. central.

The agenda includes:

- ❖ Discussion of FTTF technical review - Feb 16th
- ❖ Discussion and possible vote on AS2 features to be included in the GISB EDM.
- ❖ Discussion and identification of transition issues.

### **IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. central.



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### V. Attendees

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Name	Company	Email Address <sup>1</sup>
<b>SERVICES SEGMENT:</b>		
Carl Caldwell	CGI (not voting)	<a href="mailto:cpcaldwe@aol.com">cpcaldwe@aol.com</a>
Darren Zastawny	Nrg Information	<a href="mailto:Darren.Zastawny@nrginfo.com">Darren.Zastawny@nrginfo.com</a>
Andy Sicignano	Enron Capital and Trade	<a href="mailto:andy.sicignano@enron.com">andy.sicignano@enron.com</a>
Richard Brooks	Group 8760	<a href="mailto:dick@8760.com">dick@8760.com</a>
Cynthia Corcoran	Corcoran Law Offices	<a href="mailto:cynthiacorcoran@corcoran-law.com">cynthiacorcoran@corcoran-law.com</a>
<b>PIPELINE SEGMENT:</b>		
Theresa Hess	Enron Transwestern	<a href="mailto:thess@enron.com">thess@enron.com</a>
Susan Croley	Texas Eastern	
Terry Lehn	Enron FGT	
Jimmy Hood	Algonquin Gas	
Mike Shahan	CNG	
Kim Van Pelt	CMS Trunkline	
Megan Yarborough	Panhandle Eastern	
John Smith	CNG	
Jim Keisler	Williams Gas Pipeline (not voting)	<a href="mailto:jim.e.keisler@twc.wgp.com">jim.e.keisler@twc.wgp.com</a>
Ed Glatis	CNG	
Chris Solakian	ANR	
Mark Gracey	Tennessee Gas Pipeline	

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