

EBB TRANSITION TO INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

COMPROMISE MODEL APPROACH

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ACCESS

Access covers the issues surrounding how we get to the Web pages

The public Internet and internet communication protocols will be one mode of communication for accessing all pipeline business functions. (Norm Walker)

Web browser interface should use Internet compatible browser software. (Carl Caldwell, Norm Walker)

A TSP's EBB should be accessible via the public internet via standard browser software. (Mike Novak, Norm Walker)

NAVIGATION

Navigation deals with the issues of once we are in the Web page how we move around the page, where navigational tools are located, what they look like, their names, etc.

GISB should develop a standardized Web site navigational structure (Common Internet Format) to provide access to business functions. (Mike Novak, Norm Walker)

Non-transactional data (Informational Postings) under Standard No. 4.3.6 would be communicated over the Internet via a "common look and feel" standardized web page. (Jim Buccigross, Norm Walker)

Standard navigation screens should be developed as templates. (Mike Novak, Norm Walker)

Navigation through the "menus" of the Common Internet Format should be consistent so far as location and technique. (Mike Novak, Norm Walker)

CONTENT/FORMAT

Content deals with the data in the content area that is displayed. For example, when we go to the Web page we navigate to nominations by selecting the "Nomination Button" and then we enter the Nomination content area. Format deals with the arrangement of the nomination content area.

The necessity and order (priority) of the existing 32 standard X12 data sets should be examined. (Norm Walker)

Standard field name descriptors or abbreviations should be used on all transactional web pages. [No standards for screen layouts, exact placement, font size, colors, etc.] (Carl Caldwell)

A list of standard transactions should be provided with the Common Internet Format. (Mike Novak) – This one needs more explanation.

Consequently, the alternative solution is to simplify and consolidate, through standardization, the EBB screens. (Jerry Hahn) – No.

UPLOAD/DOWNLOAD

Upload/Download deals with the ability to access and input data to the Web page instead of going directly into the Web page. (i.e. X12)

Valid codes available for data validation or selection on transactional web page should also be available in a downloadable format for use by customers and their third party service providers. (Carl Caldwell) – Because of the critical timing issue, this one cannot be supported. The use of the common codes should be significant step forward in this process. The work Information Requirements will be completed during 1998.

Flat file uploads and downloads from the transactional web page should be allowed on a mutually agreeable basis. (Carl Caldwell, Norm Walker)

TIMING

Timing deals with the issue of what we are going to transition to the Internet and when.

The process of creating standards for transactional web sites should begin by 7/1/98. (Norm Walker)

The initial phase (of a multiple phase implementation) of common look and feel for internet transactions that are not currently standardized should be implemented subsequent to the implementation of the currently standardization data sets that are determined to be necessary on the web page.. (Norm Walker)

The producer community would support delay of Web site implementation for transactional content past 6-1-99 in order to achieve greater standardization of TSP Web sites. (Jerry Hahn) – This one needs additional information before we can agree.

The overall industry standardization effort should be phased across all segments by GISB establishing a plan (agreed to by LDCs, Producers, Endusers, Pipelines, and Service Segment members) such that each standardized data set will be implemented one at a time across the entire natural gas grid to effect maximum impact for efficiency. For example the standardized data sets determined to be necessary would be prioritized. Every segment would agree to implement on their web site the first one. No segment would be required to implement the second data set until every segment (EC member companies at an absolute minimum) had successfully implemented the data set according to all applicable GISB standards. This gives every segment an opportunity to participate timely and economically in the GISB implementation process. (Norm Walker)

SCOPE OF TRANSACTION STANDARDIZATION

This issue deals with the need to discuss, identify and explore what services need to be standardized with regard to transactional data as we transition to the Internet.

This approach should begin with an industry 'survey' or 'study' of existing EBBs to determine the range of transactions that remain to be standardized. (Sylvia Munson, Norm Walker)