

Subj: XML/EDI

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From: mmbtu@ibm.net

To: dgussow@fpl.com, legaljb@tcapserv.com, mdray@duke-energy.com, hahnge@texaco.com, scorman@enron.com, mn0vak@aol.com, robert.p.wallenhurst@exxon.sprint.com, masc@hgccorp.com, tommie.r.hartmann@exxon.sprint.com, walkerne@epenergy.com, rbetonte@pacnt.com, sylviam@altranet.com, cpcaldwe@aol.com, paul\_d\_love@oxy.com, lspangler@latitudetech.net, sdh@aol.com, young0r@kochind.com, unruhj@kochind.com, kvanpelt@dike-energy.com, msyarbrough@duke-energy.com, dale.m.davis@wgp.twc.com, barnetts@kochind.com, ccsculley@duke-energy.com

CC: gisb1@aol.com, gisb@aol.com, david.f.pfeifer@ac.com

Included in this email are some hypertext links to Web pages that will pertain to a discussion that will take place on today's EBB Transition Team conference call. The first three links are easy reading that you may have time for prior to today's meeting to give you an idea of what I'm talking about; the last two give more information that you may want to read later.

From what I can surmise from my conversations concerning EBBs and EDI, there seem to be two main concerns about using strictly EDI:

1. How do we service the smaller shippers and pipelines? and,
2. How do I get to 'see' my transactions that I've submitted them to the pipes?

I've been doing some research on a markup language, called XML, to serve as a front end to EDI. I pulled a lot of information from the Internet and I'm getting the idea that this might be a viable solution for the industry to obtain the common look and feel that a majority of the transition team wants. I'm attaching five links to information on the Web that pertain to XML and its relationship to EDI.

Please try to read prior to today's meeting:

<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/Floor/5815/sixpack.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/Floor/5815/Book.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/Floor/5815/bp01.htm>

Further informational reading:

<http://www.arbortext.com/xmlwp.html#Summary> (this article is longer, but well worth the read before today's meeting, if your time permits)

<http://www.arbortext.com/wp.html>

I will be contacting the W3C organization, founders of this language and also Marv Rosenberg at FERC, who is a proponent of this solution this week to gain more knowledge about how this can work for the gas industry.

Please excuse the lateness of getting this information to you. I just completed my initial research and got pretty excited about the possibilities. I believe using this language as the front end to EDI transactions will alleviate the two concerns listed above because the customers will have the ability to enter their transactions from the Internet and also "see" that information being communicated to the pipeline. This solution also alleviates my concerns over whether the Internet technology is in place for us to develop a common EBB for the industry.

Thanks for your time and immediate attention to this important issue.

Jean Ford

713/547-1375 (today only)

Secondary email: [jean.m.ford@ac.com](mailto:jean.m.ford@ac.com) (please send any correspondence to both of my email addresses)