

Gas Industry Standards Board

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Home Page: www.gisb.org

TO: Interpretations Subcommittee, Interested Industry Participants
FROM: Rae McQuade, Executive Director
RE: Final Minutes from the Interpretations Subcommittee Meeting
DATE: December 8, 2000

1. Administrative

Mr. Lander chaired the meeting, welcomed the participants and gave the anti-trust advice. The agenda was adopted with no changes. The red-lined minutes of June 1, 2000 were adopted with no changes.

2. C00004

Altra Energy requested an interpretation of GISB Standard No. 1.3.5. The request was presented by Ms. Donovan.

Clarification or interpretation request:

Altra would like to request GISB interpretations for Nomination Begin and End date qualifier information:

1. Can a pipeline dictate what DATE/TIME QUALIFIER a marketer must use in order to send an X.12 nomination?

The GISB 1.3 Standards changed the Nom Begin and Nom End Date "Date Time Period Qualifier (DTM06)" valid values from RD8 and RDT to D8 and DT in the G850NMST and G855NMQR datasets only. The GISB 1.3 Standards define the two valid DTM Segment "Date Time Period Format Qualifiers" as follows:

D8 Date Expressed in Format CCYYMM

DT Date and Time Expressed in Format CCYYMMDDHHMI

GISB Standard 1.3.5 states that "All nominations should include shipper defined begin dates and end dates". Altra interprets this as stating that the originator of the EDI transaction (in this case the Marketer sending a G850NMST) has the ability to choose either the D8 or the DT format when sending a transaction. That the recipient of the EDI transaction (i.e., the pipeline) may not dictate to the sender the format in which they [the pipeline] want the file to be received.

2. Is there a GISB Standard that indicates how a pipeline that normally does it's EDI transmissions using the D8 format should handle receipt of a nomination from a marketer sending a DT formatted nomination in the Nom Begin and Nom End date DTM segments?
If there is not a GISB Standard, then which of the following two examples best explains the correct method for "interpreting" a DT formatted nom received by a pipeline that normally does it's business using the D8 formatted date?

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Example 1:

The pipeline needs to do a "conversion" on the nomination date information if the Date/Time Qualifier used by the Marketer is a DT and is different from D8 qualifier normally used by the pipeline.

Marketer sends a one day nomination for April 30th 2001 using the DT format:

Nom Begin Date DTM ~ 007~ ~ ~ ~ DT ~ 200104300900

Nom End Date DTM ~ 197~ ~ ~ ~ DT ~ 200105010900

Pipeline receiving the aforementioned nom is responsible for internally converting the DT date formatted nom received into the following properly formatted D8 nom that would then be used by the pipeline's system:

Nom Begin Date DTM ~ 007~ ~ ~ ~ D8 ~ 20010430

Nom End Date DTM ~ 197~ ~ ~ ~ D8 ~ 20010430

The bottom line on Example 1 is that however the Pipeline wants to do it (i.e., the interpretation/conversion) the end result on the Pipeline's side is that they should create a one day nom for April 30th from that Marketer [and not a two day nom ~ from April 30th through May 1st].

Example 2:

The pipeline's method for "converting" a DT formatted nom to a D8 formatted nom involves the simple truncation of the time from the DT formatted nom.

Marketer intends on sending a one day nomination for April 30th 2001 using the DT format:

Nom Begin Date DTM ~ 007~ ~ ~ ~ DT ~ 200104300900

Nom End Date DTM ~ 197~ ~ ~ ~ DT ~ 200105010900

The Pipeline truncates the time from the DT nom as the means of creating a D8 formatted nom:

Nom Begin Date DTM ~ 007~ ~ ~ ~ D8 ~ 20010430

Nom End Date DTM ~ 197~ ~ ~ ~ D8 ~ 20010501

Using the Example 2 method of "interpretation/conversion", the single day DT nom submitted by the Marketer is interpreted by the Pipeline as a two day nomination (from April 30th through May 1st).

Under Example 2, the Marketer should have sent the following DT nomination if they wanted the Pipeline to convert the nom correctly to a D8 format:

Nom Begin Date DTM ~ 007~ ~ ~ ~ DT ~ 200104300900

Nom End Date DTM ~ 197~ ~ ~ ~ DT ~ 200104300900 (same day/time as above)

Discussion:

Ms. Donovan described the request. There were concerns raised on the request referring to GISB Standard No. 1.3.5, but the interpretation text referred to dates and times which are not reflected in GISB Standard No. 1.3.5. To answer this concern, it was noted that Altra can provide a request to either change standards or create a new standard to reflect their needs. Ms. Donovan noted that this request was submitted as an interpretation because although the Nom End Date in a mandatory field, available in either a DT (including time) or a D8 format

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(only including the date), some pipelines truncate the time portion if it is sent in a DT format. If the time specified by the sender is 9:00 a.m., this truncation can result in a nomination incorrectly (from the perspective of the sender) read to pertain to the whole day specified in the Nom End Date - resulting in the nomination being extended for an extra day. Ms. Van Pelt highlighted the problem of reading the time portion of the Nom End Date field, where the sender specified 3:00 a.m. in the field, with ambiguous results for the nomination. After further discussion, Ms. Donovan noted she would determine before the next meeting whether to continue pursuing an interpretation or requesting a new standard or modification to an existing standard to clear up the existing ambiguity in using the DTM format for the Nom End Date.

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3. Next meeting and agenda

The next conference call is scheduled for December 15 at 11:00 a.m. central, to continue discussing this request for interpretation. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Central Time.

4. Meeting Attendees and Voting Record

Subcommittee Member	Representing	Present	GISB Member
Kelly Daly	Arizona Public Service		✓
Tina Patton	Boeing		✓
Paul Keeler	Burlington Resources		✓
Greg Lander	CapacityCenter.com	✓	✓
Steve Sullivan	ConEd		✓
Bill Boswell	Dominion Resources		✓
Mark Scheel	Dynegy		✓
Shelley Corman	Enron Transportation Services		✓
Richard Smith	ExxonMobil		✓
Paul Love	NGPL	✓	✓

Attendee	Representing		GISB Member
Karen Donovan	Altra Energy	✓	✓
Gordon Higginbotham	Altra Energy	✓	✓
Cynthia Corcoran	BTUWatch.com	✓	✓
Clancy Aschbrenner	CIG	✓	✓
Kim Van Pelt	CMS-Panhandle	✓	✓
Theresa Hess	Enron - Transwestern	✓	✓
Dale Davis	Williams Gas Pipeline	✓	✓
Jim Keisler	Williams Gas Pipeline	✓	✓