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To: <retaillelectric@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [retaillelectric] Comment on "Policy Question" / Follow-up to Houston REQ Meeting
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2002 2:52 PM

I apologize for not being able to attend the Houston meeting of the REQ subcommittees last week but am glad that National Grid was ably represented in the person of Kathy Yetman, our New England companies' manager of supplier services. Kathy has briefed me on the meeting and I would like to share my views on one particular issue -- whether it is appropriate for the REQ or any of its subcommittees to store in a separate document policy-related ideas that arise during REQ discussions of candidate practice standards. Specifically, I see that the "Regulatory Policy Issues" section in the Billing and Payment strawman discussed in Houston is to be moved to a separate document "for later consideration." This should simply be deleted. I also understand that the REQ is not yet ready to present a request for clarification on how to handle policy issues to the NAESB Executive Committee, as we agreed in Baltimore would be done .

Guidance from the EC notwithstanding, I believe NAESB bylaws and procedures are unambiguous in this regard - the organization is not authorized under its charter to develop policy issues or to frame a deliverable containing policies. The nature of each NAESB deliverable is spelled out and I am unaware of any instrument that is designed to capture policy considerations, no matter how relevant they might be to the REQ's discussions. Accordingly, even an informal action to place policy related information into a side document appears to run counter to the organization's stated purpose and rules. As I suggested in Baltimore, NAESB has the best chance of succeeding in its mission if its participants adhere closely to its mantra of developing standardized practices that help the competitive market function more workably. Policy discussions may be appropriately noted in meeting minutes, but succinctly so as not to cloud anyone's view of our central purpose, which is promulgating standardized business practices that can be widely adopted where applicable.

I urge the REQ to avoid creating any documents containing policy related materials until such time as the Executive Committee provides guidance that this would not be inconsistent with NAESB bylaws and operating procedures.

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