

To: NAESB
From: Brenda McGough
Date: October 6, 2003

Subject: File Format for exchanging 3rd Party Information

An industry standard format (XML) is needed for Gas Measurement, SCADA, and third party polling systems that can be easily implemented to facilitate exchange of measurement data both from company to company and between internal systems within a company. There are several reasons why this capability would be advantageous to use and highly cost effective.

It is extremely common to transfer 3rd party volume information between pipeline companies on a weekly or monthly basis via paper/fax. Manual entry of this information into our gas measurement system is extremely time consuming and an error prone process. The industry needs to get away from the paper/fax process because of the difficulty to read, trying to become a paperless society, and interpretation of the data is a slow and time-consuming affair.

An XML file would be received into a directory and imported immediately upon receipt. An XML format used by all corporations in the industry would help in reducing cost, and create more accurate data.

A benefit of having one program that could import and export the same data format would benefit the corporation by reducing the costs of implementing and interfacing future gas measurement and SCADA systems.

The XML standard is a very flexible mechanism for specifying data content, which is well suited to describe the information to be exchanged. The flexibility of XML will allow for easy modification to the data exchange as new record types and fields are specified by NAESB.

XML is widely used by IT systems throughout the world and is inexpensive to implement. Use of a well known standard like XML will reduce the cost of development because software developers will already be familiar with the technology in general and off-the-shelf software development tools used to implement specific solutions.