

Subj: **Request R03023**
Date: 10/8/2003 8:56:40 AM Central Daylight Time
From: [Gary](#) Mason
To: [NAESB office](#)

Re: Request R03023

To Whom It May Concern:

I served as President of the software users' group that presented the subject proposal during its development. This group, representing many of Texas's natural gas pipeline companies, overwhelmingly recognized the need for such a standard and positively agreed that the XML approach made the most sense.

I assigned a committee, made up of industry experts, to further develop the proposal; the outcome of which is now before you. Please be aware that the group designated the major focus of this endeavor to be the delivery of a non-vendor specific standard to ensure efficient data sharing across different systems.

The following items paraphrase the group's consensus process that I facilitated over the course of numerous meetings and discussions. The dialogue and thoughts were captured by the group's Secretary and presented to the standard-development committee. Due to available resources, the vendor volunteered to faithfully and formally document them:

- 1) It is extremely common to transfer of 3rd party volume information between pipelines via paper/faxed reports. Manual entry of this information into gas measurement information systems is an extremely time consuming and error prone process. An industry wide file format will reduce both the upfront cost of manual entry of this data and the followup cost of dealing with errors.
- 2) 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 format as new record types and fields are specified by NAESB. XML is widely used in IT systems throughout the world and is inexpensive to implement.
- 3) Implementation of a standard for transfer of data from SCADA systems and host polling packages to gas measurement systems will directly reduce the cost and risk of implementation of SCADA and gas measurement systems. Additionally, by reducing barriers to competition erected by vendors with highly proprietary solutions, overall competition between vendors will be increased also reducing the cost of systems to the end users.

Many conscientious and knowledgeable gas industry employees put a lot of volunteered time and effort into developing this important non-partisan, data-sharing standard. I encourage you to give it consideration commensurate to its importance to our industry.

Thank you,
Gary Mason
President PGAS Users Group 2002-2003