

Transition Document

Purpose

The intent of this document is twofold: 1) provide an overview of the steps necessary to advance the current work of the Electronic Scheduling Collaborative (ESC) and OASIS Standards Collaborative (OSC), and 2) provide the industry with the open issues on transferring the completed work and responsibilities of the ESC and OSC to the appropriate industry organizations.

Background

The ESC and OSC represent a collaboration of stakeholders in the wholesale electric industry. Membership comprises Merchant Generators, Marketers, Load Serving Entities, Transmission Dependent Utilities, Transmission Providers, Independent System Operators, Regional Transmission Organizations, Regional Reliability Organizations, and End-Use Customers.

The ESC maps its inception back to the NERC “What” group that was formed in 1994 to frame the functional requirements for OASIS as envisioned in Orders 888 and 889. Over the past two years, the ESC has worked to define the evolving needs of OASIS II and electronic scheduling. This effort focused on the development of functional requirements, which embrace the concepts contained in existing and currently proposed market designs.

The OSC began as the EPRI “How” group that was formed in 1995 to develop Standards and Communications Protocols for FERC necessary to achieve the implementation of OASIS as envisioned in Order 889. The current OSC was formed by merging the original EPRI “How” Working Group and the NERC Transaction Information Systems Working Group (TISWG). This merger was the direct result of the Commission’s OASIS II ANOPR and the industry’s need for a more flexible transaction information exchange. The OSC members have combined their OASIS and TISWG expertise to develop standards for a new tagging system, and continue to refine and develop functional requirements for OASIS as envisioned in Orders 888 and 889.

Objectives

The ESC and OSC’s focus has been to develop a common market interface that will allow participants to enter market transactions once and disseminate that data to multiple market systems. The goal is to eliminate duplication while providing a single source of dynamic communication that provides the status of transactions. OASIS II would promote and facilitate the concept of ‘one-stop shopping’ across multiple markets.

The objective for OASIS II is to provide a common market interface and an open and integrated scheduling tool that will support both the physical and financial based SMD markets and:

- Allow market participants to enter and modify their inter-control area and intra-control area transactions at a single point,
- Support both the physical and financial market structures,
- Provide dynamic notification of transaction status in the various markets at a single point,
- Reduce training effort and system development costs for market participants,
- Enhance information availability on system reliability by creating redundant sites for information,
- Enable market participants and operators to maintain the highest level of customer security, and
- Provide for a flexible structure to accommodate evolving market rules.

Deliverables

The ESC and OSC will deliver in the third quarter of 2003:

OASIS II Use Case Specification

This document will describe the functionality needed in OASIS II to implement standard market designs and the NERC Functional Model. The deliverable includes detailed diagrams and descriptions of business logic and process flow. The use cases will serve as a benchmark to identify business practices that may need standardization.

OASIS II System Requirements

This document will address the global factors needed for OASIS II such as usability, architecture, interfaces, reliability, performance, etc. These deliverables could be used as the basis for associated business rules and technical specifications for OASIS II.

During the transition period the ESC and OSC will continue to support:

OASIS 1A

The OSC will document modifications and fixes required by the current OASIS 1A standards and will recommend changes to the OASIS Standards and Communications Protocols document to facilitate those changes.

E-Tagging

The OSC will develop fixes and enhancements, recommended by the industry, to the current E-Tag specification and support the industry-wide implementation of those fixes and enhancements.

Going Forward

The following statement appears in the NAESB, NERC and RTO/ISO Council's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

"Whereas, the Parties agree that all the current activities of the ESC and OSC should be included in one or several of the Parties' organizations and thus brought into the single standard setting coordination process as defined in this Memorandum of Understanding;"

Based on the language in the MOU and the expected completion dates of their current work, the ESC and OSC believe other industry organizations should be responsible for continuing the effort of developing OASIS II. This change is required to ensure compliance with the MOU and to expedite the completion of remaining work. The ESC and OSC believe it is important that the industry maintain momentum at this critical juncture.

The transition presents several challenges to the industry:

- Ensure broad stakeholder involvement,
- Eliminate duplicative efforts and maintain coordination with other industry efforts,
- Expedite efforts to keep pace with the industry needs, and
- Respond to new FERC initiatives and orders.

To continue the development and implementation of OASIS II, which includes an electronic scheduling platform that will accommodate physical and financial markets, the ESC and OSC believe the following tasks must be addressed by the various industry organizations:

- Identify potential areas for Business Practice Standards, using the ESC and OSC deliverables.
- Remand the list of potential Business Practice Standards to the appropriate industry organizations.
- Develop an approved set of Business Practice Standards for filing with FERC.
- Identify the “owner” of the OASIS II Standards and Communications Protocols that will be responsible for the development of an implementation plan necessary for the roll out of the new applications (user registration, schema, implementation timeline, industry-wide training, cutover, etc.).
- Develop an approved set of OASIS II Technical Standards (i.e., the OASIS Standards and Communications Protocols) based upon the Business Practice Standards for filing with FERC.

Summary

The ESC and OSC have concluded there are several legitimate options to best address the additional work requirements outlined above after the current deliverables are complete. The membership of both the ESC and OSC:

1. Support a collaborative effort by NAESB, NERC and the RTO/ISO Council to adopt the work of the ESC and OSC and assign it to the appropriate industry organizations,
2. Will be available to the NERC-NAESB Joint Interface Committee (JIC) or other designees of the MOU signatories to discuss transitions options,
3. Urge the parties to expedite the development of OASIS II to:
 - Maintain momentum and continuity, and
 - Ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities.

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Associated Documents

The documents listed below are associated with the Transition Document and may be found at the ESC website: <https://www.nerc.net/esc/RelatedFiles.asp>

- Letter – Status of ESC and OSC Activities, dated 5/13/03
- ESC Work Plan – March 2003, dated 3/12/03

The current versions of the ESC and OSC deliverables are located at:
<https://www.nerc.net/esc/Deliverables.asp>