



Gas Industry Standards Board

1100 Louisiana, Suite 3625, Houston, Texas 77002

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Home Page: www.gisb.org

TO: GISB XML Subcommittee Distribution List & Posting for Interested Industry Participants

FROM: Rae McQuade, Executive Director
Bill Hunsicker, co-chairman, GISB XML Subcommittee
Peter Goldberg, co-chairman, GISB XML Subcommittee

RE: Final Minutes from the GISB XML Subcommittee Meeting

DATE: January 8, 2001

GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD
GISB XML SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING & CONFERENCE CALL
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Central, January 8, 2001
FINAL MINUTES

I. Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. central. Mr. Hunsicker welcomed participants, attendees identified themselves, and Mr. Sappenfield read the GISB antitrust statement and covered housekeeping rules. Mr. Sappenfield was thanked for hosting and sponsoring the meeting. Mr. Hunsicker chaired the meeting and Mr. Goldberg was identified as the co-chair of the group. The agenda was adopted. The minutes of December 4 were adopted.

II. Industry Experiences

Mr. Keisler described the wording changes to the plan which were adopted by the group via email after the December 4 meeting but before the Executive Committee adopted it on December 14. The group reviewed and accepted the plan.

Mr. Hunsicker reviewed the activities in Ontario using XML transactions for the electric market. Singapore also has activities for XML development for the electric industry for 28 transactions. NEM has endorsed XML in its technology policy statement. FERC staffers have asked about XML transactions, as they consider whether it is appropriate for their use. UIG is developing XML transactions. ERCOT will be supporting both EDI and XML transactions. PIDX is also working on XML development. ebXML is publishing and testing their standards, with Mr. Brooks taking a lead role on enveloping and transaction tracking. Microsoft is promoting BizTalk, which has proposed its standards to the W3C. DISA and the ANSI X12 Subcommittee endorse ebXML. Westcoast experiences with XML were highlighted by Mr. Goldberg.

III. Plan

Mr. Hunsicker reviewed the plan and began review of the items to be completed by the first quarter:

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- 1 Investigate how other related groups are incorporating XML 1st Qtr 2001 into their bodies of work - UIG, ERCOT, and CUBR/EEI/NEM.**
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In discussion, assignments were made for a brief status of the activities of groups active in leadership of XML development and standards setting. The updates will be provided to the GISB office within one week (January 15) for:

- Keith Sappenfield is assigned to ERCOT and EEI/UBP updates.
- Dick Brooks is assigned to EbXML and any other groups to be monitored.
- Dave Darnell is assigned to UIG updates.
- Bill Hunsicker, Kim Van Pelt, Jim Keisler and Leon Shiman for DISA updates.
- Rae McQuade for NEM updates.
- Bill Hunsicker for CUBR updates.
- Peter Goldberg for GasEDI updates.
- Leon Shiman for WC3/BizTalk updates.

The updates will be maintained on a periodic basis and included as part of the report to the Executive Committee.

2 Determine how to benefit from their activities and results. 1st Qtr 2001

Drawing some conclusions from the above reviews is the purpose of action item no. 2. The conclusion should be reached on which standard the pilot should follow (ebXML or BizTalk) and completed by mid-February. This would be information to provide to possible testers.

3 Review GISB transactions and planned development to 1st Qtr 2001 identify a pilot transaction(s) and its usage(s).

Item number 3 should address the benefits of pilot test and identification of the goals of the pilot test. The transaction selection and development plan would conclude by the end of February – but discussion should begin on this item immediately.

There were several options identified for the selection of the transaction for the pilot test:

- Contract: although the Information requirements are not defined, it may be fairly easy to develop a set of data
- Imbalance Netting and Trading: while the information requirements are defined, an EDI transaction has not been not been developed
- Scheduled Quantity, Allocations or Invoicing: these transactions would allow for easy comparison between EDI and XML.

XML could be used for either batch transactions or online transactions. History has shown that the industry has not embraced EDI as expected, and XML could provide an alternative that might be more accepted. Which type of transaction is being tested (batch versus online) will factor into the selection of the transaction.

The goal of the pilot was discussed with several identified:

- evaluate XML as an X12 EDI alternative or replacement;
- evaluate XML as a development tool;
- evaluate XML as a file download format and
- evaluate XML to support online functions.

Depending on the tools available for XML, XML may be more readily accessible to the industry than EDI. XML is becoming the common communication medium between



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internal applications. It was noted that for that reason over any other, XML should be reviewed.

To try to broaden participation in the task force and solicit volunteers for the pilot testing, an email will be sent from the office to the GISB members and highlighting the planned activities and design of a pilot test.

It was discussed that first, the question must be answered of whether to use an existing GISB EDI transaction, or use a transaction that has not been developed for GISB EDI transaction yet. Another point made was that the volunteer testers should have a strong influence in the pilot test(s) being designed and conducted – particularly in the choice of the transaction. A motion may be made after lunch on the choosing the base contract for short term sales and purchases of natural gas as the transaction for the pilot test, testing the usage in lieu of an X12 EDI transaction.

A break was taken for lunch.

There was discussion that the usage of “in lieu of an X12 EDI transaction” may be inappropriate as contracting is not a batch activity. Contracting is more of a real time activity and the more appropriate usage may be for online web transactions.

It was agreed that after the first transaction is defined to XML, another will be defined. The second transaction should be chosen to include other participants, further validate the framework used in defining the first transaction to XML, and to test other usages of XML. Excelergy has volunteered to build the data dictionary, implementation guide and schema for the first transaction to be pilot tested. Assuming few differences, Excelergy will also build the second transaction. Mr. Hunsicker will provide the data dictionary, implementation guide and schema for one of the transactions his firm has already developed which has a X12 EDI counterpart – such as (820) payment remittance, (814) service request, or (867) usage such as meter data.

The motion was made by Mr. Hunsicker and seconded by Mr. Sappenfield to use the base contract for the initial pilot test. Subsequent pilot test(s) will be described after the first transaction is described to XML. The motion passed unanimously and is recorded as a balanced vote.

4 Identify possible testers for the pilot(s) and application(s) or 1st Qtr 2001 usage(s) of XML.

There will be at least two pilot tests designed. However, because of the short time frame, and limited number of volunteers, initially, there should be one transaction defined (base contract) and described to XML before beginning on the second transaction.

5a Review plan to date with the EC, including pilot test plan(s) 1st Qtr 2001 and how GISB has benefited and will benefit from the work done by other groups.

This can be addressed via email.



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III. Assignments, Next Meeting & Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. Several dates were discussed for the next meeting, face-to-face with conference calling available, and which will be arranged so that Sunday travel is not required. The meeting date will be confirmed, but may be set for Monday afternoon, January 29 and Tuesday morning, January 30, hosted by Excelergy in Atlanta. Another meeting may be scheduled for the week of February 12 - 16.

The agenda for the next meeting will include:

- A review of a draft update based on the assignments from action item 1,
- a review of the XML transactions with EDI counterparts, prepared by Mr. Hunsicker,
- further discussion on the first pilot test, and
- continued discussion on the second pilot test.

For assignments:

Name	Assignment	Date
Keith Sappenfield	Action Item 1 -- ERCOT & EEI/UBP updates.	1/15/01
Keith Sappenfield	Provide a draft of the information requirements for the short-term base contract for purchases and sales of natural gas.	1/30/01
Dick Brooks	Action Item 1 -- ebXML and any other groups to be monitored.	1/15/01
Dave Darnell	Dave Darnell is assigned to UIG updates.	1/15/01
Kim Van Pelt	Action Item 1 -- DISA updates. (For subsequent updates Bill Hunsicker, Jim Keisler and Leon Shiman will contribute notes.)	1/15/01
Rae McQuade	Action Item 1 -- NEM updates.	1/15/01
Rae McQuade	Send an email to all GISB members regarding the subcommittee activities and requests for volunteers for the pilot test(s).	1/09/01
Bill Hunsicker	Action Item 1 -- CUBR updates.	1/15/01
Bill Hunsicker	Provide some XML descriptions of transactions that have EDI counterparts as work paper for the next meeting.	1/15/01
Bill Hunsicker	Provide a draft XML description including the data dictionary, implementation guide and schema for the base contract based on the information supplied by Mr. Sappenfield.	2/16/01
Peter Goldberg	Action Item 1 -- GasEDI updates.	1/15/01
Leon Shiman	Action Item 1 -- WC3/BizTalk updates.	1/15/01



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IV. Attendees

GISB Member	Voter	Vote ¹	Attendee	Representing Organization
GISB Office:				
✓		(1)	McQuade, Rae	GISB
LDCs:				
✓	✓	✓	Shahan, Mike	Dominion Resources
Pipelines:				
✓	✓	✓	Van Pelt, Kim	CMS Energy - Panhandle Eastern
✓	✓	✓	Mehta, Tushar	CMS Energy - Trunkline
✓	✓	✓	Lehn, Terry	Enron Transportation Services - Florida Gas
✓	✓	(2)	Hess, Theresa	Enron Transportation Services - Transwestern
✓	✓	✓	Thomas, Stan	Kinder Morgan - NGPL
✓	✓	✓	Goldberg, Peter	Westcoast Energy
✓		(1)	Hamilton, Richard	Williams Gas Pipeline
✓	✓	✓	Keisler, Jim	Williams Gas Pipeline
Services:				
✓	✓	(3)	McMahon, Gina	BTUWatch, Inc.
✓	✓	✓	Hunsicker, Bill	Excelergy
✓	✓	✓	Sappenfield, Keith	Reliant Energy
✓	✓	(2)	Shiman, Leon	Shiman and Associates (by phone)
✓	✓	(2)	Darnell, Dave	Systrends (by phone)

¹ The vote was for the motion to use the base contract for the initial pilot test. The legend of voting is:

- ✓ In Favor.
- X Opposed.
- (1) Not voting.
- (2) Absent when the vote was taken.
- (3) Abstaining from the vote.



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V. Balanced Voting Results

Segment	Actual Count				Balanced Count		
	For	Against	Abstain	Total	For	Against	Total
End User	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
LDC	1	0	0	1	1.00	0.00	1.00
Pipelines	6	0	0	6	2.00	0.00	2.00
Producers	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Services	2	0	1	2	2.00	0.00	2.00
Total	9	0	1	9	5.00	0.00	5.00