



Gas Industry Standards Board

1100 Louisiana, Suite 4925, Houston, Texas 77002

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Home Page: www.gisb.org

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

FROM: Rae McQuade, Executive Director
Bill Hunsicker, Chairman, GISB XML Subcommittee

RE: **Final** Minutes from the GISB XML Subcommittee Meeting

DATE: April 14, 2000

GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD

GISB XML SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING & CONFERENCE CALL

Excelergy Offices, Lexington, Massachusetts

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., April 10, 2000

FINAL MINUTES

I. Administrative

Mr. Hunsicker welcomed participants. Mr. Hunsicker asked participants to introduce themselves - both those in attendance in person and those on the phone conference. Mr. Buccigross read the antitrust statement. The agenda as written was adopted unanimously. Mr. Hunsicker was unanimously endorsed as chairman of the subcommittee.

II. Task Force Process

Mr. Buccigross covered the task force charge to prepare a report with a recommendation of whether to develop XML standards. The report would be presented to the Executive Committee for review and approval. Ms. McQuade reviewed the task force process - following Roberts Rules of Order, the use of work papers prepared prior to the meeting to use the participants' time efficiently, distribution and posting of materials. Voting rules were discussed and it was determined to ask the Executive Committee to use balanced voting rules. The subcommittee would then use balanced voting rules as needed. The process of one vote per company regardless of membership status was highlighted, as was the requirements that all GISB meetings are open and agendas and work papers are posted for public access. The GISB office will post all work papers for the XML Subcommittee. Those individuals interested in receiving this information via an email distribution list should send a note to the GISB office with phone number, fax number, email address and company affiliation. GISB follows a privacy policy and will not distribute contact information.

III. XML Description

On the current state of technology for XML, Mr. Hunsicker and others noted that XML use is becoming more prevalent in various industries. The California ISO is moving towards using XML in June of 2000. It was also noted that several groups (Microsoft, W3C, and others) are setting XML standards, that could be incompatible. W3C is setting XML, but not applicable to business-to-business (B-to-B) applications. The groups RosettaNet, Commerce 1, and Arriba have formed a coalition called ebXML to define B-to-B XML standards, but they have indicated that it is not their intent to delay industries from developing XML standards and applications. Concern was raised that GISB should wait to see the outcome of this group before moving



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forward, and tag development would be difficult without an accepted national cross industry standard. The ebXML group has further noted that industry groups should go forward and develop XML standards that are meaningful to their industries. DISA, the secretariat for the ANSI ASC X12 subcommittee has endorsed the ebXML group. It was observed that there are products and tools available for direct translating from X12 EDI to XML. Another concern was raised that if GISB were to develop standards for XML, that the development would be based on an evolving standard; others replied that this is an issue that GISB will continually face as all standards evolve. It is more of a question of stability.

It was noted that the process of supporting EDI and XML is not necessarily parallel efforts, and there is some overlap resulting in efficiency gains. There was also wide acceptance that XML development and integration into back office systems will result in additional costs. There was disagreement on the ease with which XML tags could be defined. It was noted that to be comparable to EDI implementation, validation rules for XML will need to be defined – a step that EDI translators already predefine. It was also noted that if XML tags differ from one industry to another, a translation or a cross-reference could be set up, which is how other industries operate.

In order to determine if XML standardization is beneficial to the industry, the benefits of XML implementation contrasted to the cost factors should be analyzed on a short, medium and long-term basis. During this discussion, it was remarked that short-term costs and benefits might not exist, due to the time it will take GISB to investigate the use of XML and develop the standards. XML is built into several software packages and development tools. As this proliferates, XML will be built into many of the off the shelf software packages and will become a de facto standard. As a de facto standard, XML development will then provide cost efficiencies to those who use it. The costs of XML integration into web site development are short-term. One possibility for implementation was the development of XML standards as an additional format and for implementers to use it internally to develop EDI. Newer applications will have XML parsers built into the products. A concern that has been raised is direct system to system tagging may tell an implementer's trading partner the structure of his back-end system. Standard schemas might address this concern.

IV. Preparation of Report to the Executive Committee

The following report components were identified and assigned. The volunteers should have their components forwarded to the GISB office on May 8:

- Overview of XML (Dave Darnell)
- Current State of Technology (Andy Sicignano)
- Current State of Industry Use (Keith Sappenfield)
- Natural Gas Industry Perspectives (Keith Sappenfield, Mike Stender, Jim Buccigross, and Keith Sappenfield to ask Mike Novak and a producer representative to also contribute)
- Status of other XML standardization efforts (John Tsucalas, Sylvia Munson)
- Cost factors and benefits of XML (Richard Hamilton, George Heal, Gerri Daggett)

Once the components are provided to the GISB office, Rae McQuade and Bill Hunsicker will assemble them into a report and send it out for comment to the task force participants. Any party should feel free to contribute to this report and can either contact the assignee to provide information or contact the GISB office (gisb@aol.com) with information, which will then be forwarded to the contact. Volunteers should be aware of the May 8 deadline for the



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assignees to forward their work products to the GISB office.

The next meeting will be conference call scheduled on May 15 from noon to 3:00 p.m. central. During the May 15 meeting, the draft report will be reviewed for changes, and the remaining pieces of the report will be discussed:

- the executive summary,
- the recommendation, and
- the identification of tasks, priorities and timelines should the recommendation of the group be that GISB should develop XML standards.

It is expected that the report will be presented to the Executive Committee in August.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. eastern.



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VII. Attendees

Name	Member? ¹	Voting? ²	In Person ³	Company
SERVICES SEGMENT:				
John Tsucalas	✗	✓		A.T. Kearney
Sylvia Munson	✓	✓		Altra Energy
Andy Sicignano	✓	✓	✓	Enron North America
Gerri Daggett	✓	✗	✓	Excelergy
Brian McNeil	✓	✗	✓	Excelergy
Bill Hunsicker	✓	✓	✓	Excelergy
Jim Buccigross	✓	✓	✓	Group 8760
George Heal	✓	✓	✓	Proxicom
Keith Sappenfield	✓	✓	✓	Reliant Energy
Wayne Mastin	✗	✓	✓	SCT Corp.
Dave Darnell	✓	✓	✓	Systrends
PIPELINE SEGMENT:				
Chris Solakian	✓	✓		ANR
Mike Stender	✓	✓		El Paso Natural Gas
Emmett Oliver	✓	✗		Reliant Energy
Richard Hamilton	✓	✓	✓	Williams Gas Pipeline
Jim Keisler	✓	✗		Williams Gas Pipeline
LDCs:				
Mike Shahan	✓	✓		Dominion Resources – Peoples Natural Gas
PRODUCERS:				
Mark Perrin	✓	✓		PanCanadian Petroleum
GISB OFFICE:				
Rae McQuade	✓	✗	✓	GISB Office

¹ GISB membership for 2000 – membership is not a requirement to participate in this or any GISB meeting. Membership is not a requirement for voting in this subcommittee.

² Only one representative per company can vote at a meeting.

³ If the "In Person" column is blank, the attendee participated via conference call.