



## Gas Industry Standards Board

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### **GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD XML SUBCOMMITTEE DRAFT XML PLAN**

#### **Directive**

The GISB Executive Committee, on October 12, 2000, as noted in the minutes endorsed the following actions:

While members of the XML Subcommittee have differing opinions on what the next step(s), (such as a pilot project) should be, they are in agreement that GISB should:

- continue to explore the incorporation of XML into EDM,
- consider working with other industry XML work groups, like UIG XML, to see if any synergies could exist for the development of XML standards, and
- provide a plan to the Executive Committee on how XML could work within the existing GISB standards framework.

The EC during the meeting, also provide the following guidance:

“The plan that the GISB XML Subcommittee would devise as part of the endorsed recommendation should provide for an orderly transition, should the determination be made at a later date by the EC that XML should be offered as an electronic communication choice. The effort will benefit from the work that has been directed toward development of EDI transactions. Mr. Spangler noted that this pilot effort could be included on the plan.”

The recommendation from the XML Subcommittee on August 24, 2000 is shown below:

“While members of the XML Subcommittee have differing opinions on what the next step(s), (such as a pilot project) should be, they are in agreement that GISB should:

- continue to explore the incorporation of XML into EDM,
- consider working with other industry XML work groups, like UIG XML, to see if any synergies could exist for the development of XML standards
- provide a plan to the Executive Committee on how XML could work within the existing GISB standards framework. “

#### **Plan Description**

Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) is a tag-based framework used primarily to exchange data in a universally understood format. It could be used as a vehicle for exchanging information in a batch (similar to EDI) or online (interactive web site) mode. XML is gaining in popularity -- several standards groups have undertaken its review, and some have endorsed its use. GISB has determined to prepare and carry out a plan, the end result of which would be to answer the questions: “Should GISB develop standards using XML, and if so, should GISB proceed in consideration of a pilot transaction?” Below is the description of the plan.

The XML Plan has 3 areas of development: (1) investigation of other related groups' activities, (2) development and conduct for a pilot test, and (3) recommending how XML could be included



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in GISB standards. Target dates are set along with checkpoints with the Executive Committee to review results and gain endorsement to go forward with the plan. Below is a description of each area of development.

1. Investigation of Other Groups' Related Activities: Several related groups (ERCOT, PIDX, CUBR/EEI/NEM) have already endorsed the use of XML. They may have work products that could aid GISB in its plan for a pilot test and its continued evaluation of XML.
2. Development and Conduct For a Pilot Test: The transaction for a pilot test should be chosen and the step in the pilot test outlined with companies identified to perform the test. Criteria that should be met for the test to be considered successful should also be prepared. The EC should endorse the pilot test plan prior to its execution.
3. Recommendation on how XML could be included in GISB standards: Once the test has been completed a report should be prepared for the EC explaining the results of the test and a recommendation for going forward. Should the recommendation be that XML standards should be developed by GISB, an orderly transition plan should be developed for EC review and approval.



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### GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD DRAFT XML PLAN PREPARED ON [Date]

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<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Completion</b>
1 Investigate how other related groups are incorporating XML into their body of work – UIG, PIDX, ERCOT, CUBR/EEI/NEM	?? Qtr
2 Determine how to benefit from their activities and results.	?? Qtr
3 Review GISB EDI transactions and planned development to identify a pilot transaction.	?? Qtr
4 Identify possible testers for the pilot.	?? Qtr
5 Review plan to date with the EC, including pilot test plans and how GISB has benefited and will benefit from the work done by other groups. Endorsement of the EC to go forward will be requested.	?? Qtr
<b>Assuming EC endorsement of the pilot project:</b>	
6 Prepare for and schedule the pilot test.	?? Qtr
7 Conduct the pilot test.	?? Qtr
8 Report on the results of the pilot test.	?? Qtr
9 Prepare a plan for next steps, including how XML could be incorporated into the existing body of GISB standards.	?? Qtr
10 Present findings of the benefits received from other groups, the results of pilot project, and recommendations for next steps including how XML could be incorporated into GISB standards should the determination be to do so.	?? Qtr

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