

North American Energy Standards Board Regional Issues

Flexibility is necessary as standards are developed to address regional concerns or for standards that incorporate necessary variances to represent operational or structural differences. GISB, and now NAESB, has the flexibility built into the process such that if the subcommittees, the Executive Committee and the membership determine that a standard should contain variances to address regional or operational concerns, the standard can be written to do so.

For example, as the wholesale gas quadrant, formerly GISB, drafted standards for nomination and scheduling of transportation, it was realized that there were three models for transportation. As such, standards that address these models have three parts – one specifying the standard for each model. This level of variance is carried through the business practice standards to the information standards – noting which data elements are needed for which model, and if those data elements are required or optional.

The threshold is high as the determination is made to address variances in a standard. The subcommittees drafting the standards, the Executive Committee voting to approve the subcommittee's recommendations, and the membership in ratifying the standard all must agree that such variance is necessary. That said, the GISB standards do take into account operational variances, and the same process would be used to address regional variances in standards.