



**Open Access Technology International, Inc. (OATI)  
North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB)  
OATI Response to NAESB Presentation Questions  
March 07, 2016**

1. Can e-Tag be applied to the gas industry to mimic the significant number of transactions processed on the power grid that use e-Tag in short processing windows, and if so, can it result in a streamlined scheduling process for natural gas?

**OATI Response:** Yes, benefits observed in the electricity industry would also apply to the natural gas industry to support faster electronic nominations and confirmations that can streamline the confirmation process. In electricity, daily volumes of e-Tags have increased from a few hundred in the 1990s when it started to over 4,000 initial requests and thousands more daily requests for adjustments and curtailments. These occur for daily, hourly, and sub-hourly transaction schedules and curtailments. Participants in electricity use e-Tags as the mechanism to act and react quickly and often with a very short notice, and these e-Tags populate scheduling systems, real-time transaction management systems, congestion management systems, and more, with much of it automated to increase the processing speed of transactions.

The same benefits would apply to the natural gas industry. Participants in natural gas would still be able to process data in cycles, as desired, and with e-Tags would be able to validate requests quicker and easier, for a faster and streamlined scheduling process.

2. Are there “lessons learned” in the electric industry that can benefit the gas industry as it considers the feasibility of modifying the scheduling process to make it more efficient?

**OATI Response:** The transition into electronic scheduling for electricity was a greater leap than it would be for natural gas, in part because tools and technology in natural gas appear to be further developed than electricity was in the mid-1990s. While there were concerns initially in the electricity industry as it was a change to how they used to schedule, participants quickly realized the benefits of the use of e-Tags for electronic scheduling.

Some lessons learned that might be considered include:

- Utilize the NAESB working group to oversee the standards governing electronic scheduling, and ensuring the group is populated with industry participants who

understand the future vision of electronic scheduling, plus IT professionals who can revise technical specifications accordingly to match. The specifications developed in this working group form the foundation of e-Tags.

- Recognize that the NAESB specifications can be modified, via the NAESB working group, multiple times to fine tune based upon the issues realized over the months/years of usage by the industry. There will be changes necessary, and likely multiple changes/tweaks, to ensure it works properly
- During deployment of the systems, ensure significant training is provided to the entire gas sector. Trained users will be more accepting to the advancements to be realized

Once systems are deployed, and faster scheduling is realized, two things can occur. First, schedulers will have more time available to conduct other duties. Second, over the course of time, the volumes of transactions will likely increase as a result of being able to schedule and manage higher volumes of transactions in shorter timeframes.