**North American Energy Standards Board**

**Request for Initiation of a NAESB Business Practice Standard, Model Business Practice or Electronic Transaction**

**or**

**Enhancement of an Existing NAESB Business Practice Standard, Model Business Practice or Electronic Transaction**

**Instructions:**

 **1. Please fill out as much of the requested information as possible. It is mandatory to provide a contact name, phone number and fax number to which questions can be directed. If you have an electronic mailing address, please make that available as well.**

 **2. Attach any information you believe is related to the request. The more complete your request is, the less time is required to review it.**

 **3. Once completed, send your request to:**

 **Rae McQuade**

 **NAESB, President**

 **801 Travis, Suite 1675**

 **Houston, TX 77002**

 **Phone: 713‑356‑0060**

 **Fax: 713‑356‑0067**

 **by either mail, fax, or to NAESB’s email address, naesb@naesb.org.**

**Once received, the request will be routed to the appropriate subcommittees for review.**

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**or**

**Enhancement of an Existing NAESB Business Practice Standard, Model Business Practice or Electronic Transaction**

 Date of Request: September 30, 2016

1. Submitting Entity & Address:

 Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC

 5151 San Felipe Dr, Suite 2500

 Houston, Texas 77056

 FIS Energy Services

 1221 Lamar, Suite 900

 Houston TX 77002

2. Contact Person, Phone #, Fax #, Electronic Mailing Address:

 Name : Steven McCord

 Title : NAESB Coordinator

 Phone : (713) 386-3768

 Fax : (713) 386-3420

 E‑mail : steven\_mccord@transcanada.com

 Name : Sylvia Munson

 Title : NAESB Consultant

 Phone : (713) 819-2547

 E‑mail : sylvia@contentsunderpressurebook.com

1. Title and Description of Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

Title:

Enhancement to NAESB WGQ Standard 4.3.80 to increase the allowable field length in ASCII Comma Separated Value (CSV) files.

Description:

NAESB WGQ Standard 4.3.80 defines the format for NAESB WGQ FF/EDM flat files as ASCII Comma Separated Value (CSV) files. The standard also defines the format for all CSV files used throughout the NAESB Standards. Pursuant to Standard 4.3.16, the CSV file format defined in 4.3.80 should be used for all CSV files produced.

Standard 4.3.80, places a limitation of 256 characters as the maximum amount of data to be placed in any field of a CSV file. We believe this limitation was placed on the field length due to the common usage of importing CSV files into older versions of Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Prior to 2003, Excel fields did not allow for more than 256 characters of data. This limitation was increased to 32,767 characters in 2003, and remains at that level today. Since the underlying purpose of limiting the length of CSV fields has been obsolete for over 13 years, the limitation in standard 4.3.80 should also be increased.

This increase in the length of fields in CSV files will result in fewer instances of extraneous records in CSV files. Currently, each time a field exceeds the 256 character limitation, a new record, or multiple new records, must be created to capture the additional information. This process can be minimized by using an increased field length.

4. Use of Proposed Standard or Enhancement (include how the standard will be used, documentation on the description of the proposed standard, any existing documentation of the proposed standard, and required communication protocols):

This proposal will not require TSPs to modify their current implementation, but will allow TSPs and shippers to format CSV files for more optimal utilization. This modification will only affect CSV files, and will not affect EDI files or EBB implementation.

5. Description of Any Tangible or Intangible Benefits to the Use of the Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

This proposal will allow TSPs and Service Requesters to more optimally format CSV files for industry usage. CSV fields with more than 256 characters will no longer be required to be broken into multiple fields or rows unless the string exceeds the proposed 32,767 character length.

6. Estimate of Incremental Specific Costs to Implement Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

The standard provides for a Maximum amount of data to be included in a field, but does not impose a minimum limit. Therefore, parties will not be required to modify their current implementations of this standard, but will be allowed to use longer data strings, if needed.

7. Description of Any Specific Legal or Other Considerations:

None

8. If This Proposed Standard or Enhancement Is Not Tested Yet, List Trading Partners Willing to Test Standard or Enhancement (Corporations and contacts):

N/A

9. If This Proposed Standard or Enhancement Is In Use, Who are the Trading Partners :

The proposed maximum limit in the standard is not in current use. Per the existing standards, CSV file implementations are currently required to limit data in any field to 256 characters.

10. Attachments (such as : further detailed proposals, transaction data descriptions, information flows, implementation guides, business process descriptions, examples of ASC ANSI X12 mapped transactions):

None