R99041

Gas Industry Standards Board
Request for Initiation of a GISB Standard for Electronic Business Transactions
or
Enhancement of an Existing GISB Standard for Electronic Business Transactions

Date of Request: June 21, 1999

1. Submitting Entity and Address:
    Columbia Gas Transmission Corp.
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2. Contact Person
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3. Description of Proposed Standard or Enhancement
    Allow multiple Reduction Reasons to be sent on the Scheduled Quantity. The additional
    reduction reasons should have a usage of MA. (Multiple reasons are not necessary on the
    Sched Qty for Op or the Confirmation Response.)

4. Use of Proposed Standard or Enhancement
    Currently, Columbia Gas tracks five instances where a reduction can take place. This
    enhancement would allow Columbia to send all five reductions to its EDI trading partners.

5. Description of any Tangible or Intangible Benefits to the Use of Proposed Standard or
Enhancement
    Columbia Gas believes this is a benefit to its customers. This information will be provided
    on the Internet EBB. The enhancement will make EDI comparable to the Internet EBB.

6. Estimate of Incremental Specific Costs to Implement Proposed Standard or Enhancement
    For those customers wanting to receive multiple Reduction Reasons, the cost would be minimal.
    There would be a change to the EDI translator program and to the data storage system. Both could
    probably be accomplished in less than a day.

    For those customers not wanting multiple reduction reasons, there would be no cost. The 'RR'
    identifier could continue to be used. This would allow the customer to receive the one Reduction
    Reason that they are currently receiving.

7. Description of any Specific Legal or Other Considerations:
    None.

8. If this Proposed Standard or Enhancement is not tested yet, list the Trading Partners willing to test Standard or Enhancement?

> Columbia can test this enhancement on its own. Columbia is also willing to test with any of its trading partners.

9. If this Proposed Standard or Enhancement is in use, who are the trading partners?

> Columbia Gas sends multiple Reduction Reasons. The first RR is contained in the first occurrence of the SI segment. All five RRs are contained in the second occurrence of the SI segment. This implementation allows a customer to ignore the second SI segment and still receive the first RR.
>
> Since this exists, Columbia's trading partners have developed a method for processing the multiple reduction reasons. All of the Reduction Reasons have a code qualifier of 'RR.' Since the qualifier is not unique, the trading partner is probably only receiving one RR.

10. Attachments

11. Abstract

> Columbia uses multiple steps in order to develop the scheduled quantity. Three of these steps may result in a reduction to the nominated quantity. The three steps are:
>
> 1. LDC Capacity - The LDC is unable to receive the quantity of gas nominated on Columbia's pipeline. The reduction takes place at Columbia's delivery location. The LDC would enter a Reduction Reason to explain the cut.
> 2. Capacity Allocation - The pipeline reduces quantities based on the capacity of the pipe. A reduction may occur at the receipt location and/or the delivery location. Columbia stores two Reduction Reasons for Capacity Allocation (receipt and delivery).
> 3. Confirmation - Quantities are reduced during the confirmation process. The reduction may occur at the receipt location and/or the delivery location. Columbia stores two Reduction Reasons for Confirmations (receipt and delivery).
>
> Columbia needs 5 Reduction Reasons in order to send this information to its trading partners. The five types of reduction are:
>
> 1. LDC Capacity Cut
> 2. Capacity Allocation - Receipt
> 3. Capacity Allocation - Delivery
> 4. Confirmation - Receipt
> 5. Confirmation - Delivery
>
> These five reduction types are not code values. This is a request for additional data elements or a method of sending the current data element multiple times.

12. Possible Solutions

    Columbia would like to propose the following solutions

1. Add new data elements.
   This is not a desired solution to the problem. For Columbia, five data elements would be needed. Other pipelines may need additional data elements causing the data dictionary to contain redundant data elements.

2. Have the Technical Subcommittee define and explain how multiple reduction reasons can be sent.
   This is the desired solution. Technically, Reduction Reason could work similar to Validation Code. EDI users expect all Validation Codes to be provided even though there is only one data element. Reduction Reason should work the same way.

   If it is necessary to give each occurrence of the Reduction Reason a unique qualifier, this could be done. Occurrence one could be 'RR,' which is the existing qualifier. The others could be 'R1,' 'R2,' etc. This could be explained without adding data elements.

   Keeping 'RR' allows the current implementation to work. Therefore, no change is required by companies not wanting to use multiple Reduction Reasons. Adding R1, R2, etc. allows companies wanting to send/accept multiple Reduction Reasons a way to do it.