

R00001  
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

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Date of Request: 02/03/2000

1. Submitting Entity & Address:

Enron Gas Pipeline Group  
1400 Smith Street  
Houston, Texas 77002

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

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3. Description of Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

Review the existing GISB **security mechanisms** and make appropriate revisions.  
Specific areas to be reviewed include:

- File-based Encryption and Digital signature (currently PGP)
- Web-based Authentication Mechanisms
- Web-based Encryption Mechanisms
- Web-based Digital Signature Mechanisms

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):

Revised security mechanisms could be used for datasets which are communicated in a batch mode or via Web pages.

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

GISB standards currently recommend the use of Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) for EDI/EDM. This offers both encryption and digital signature capabilities. PGP was chosen in 1996 at a time that few alternatives were available. Today, there exist offerings based on industry standards (e.g., S-MIME) which may offer benefits such as competing products from multiple vendors.

GISB standards also specify use of 40-bit encryption and HTTP Basic Authentication (userid and password) for EBB/EDM. These mechanisms do not provide for digital

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signature which would provide non-repudiation (proof of the source) of the data set's source. Today, there are new approaches which use certificates that: 1) may allow a stronger form of authentication, 2) eliminate the need to maintain multiple userids and passwords on the server, 3) are more convenient for the user, and 4) allow the possibility of digital signature for data transmitted from a Web page.

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

It is difficult to estimate what costs would be incurred to switch to a new form of security without knowing exactly what would be chosen. Any such estimate would be an outcome of the proposed review.

7. Description of Any Specific Legal or Other Considerations:

None known.

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

Enron Gas Pipeline Group is willing to test this. Other parties have indicated an interest in testing.

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

N/A.

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

As needed, Enron Gas Pipeline Group will provide a workpaper for discussion.