

R00002  
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  
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2. Contact Person, Phone #, Fax #, Electronic Mailing Address:

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3. Description of Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

Review the possible use of **Extended Markup Language (XML)**. EDI and XML are not the same thing. In fact, they actually complement each other. EDI provides standards that support the exchange of transactions or other business documents. XML facilitates the presentation of the documents to Web users. It is also recognized by many of today's X12 translator products.

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):

XML 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:

XML "self-documents" the data which is being sent. In the last year, XML has received considerable attention by software vendors. XML, as compared to HTML, can also be generated by a wide variety of tools. XML is understood by Web browsers and desktop office suites. There are now numerous tools to assist in the generation of XML files as well as tools such as browsers which know how to interpret an XML file when received. In addition, vendors of X12 translators are likely to include an XML capability (some already do).

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

If standards are set by GISB that allow for use of XML in developing Web pages and data structures, it would likely be phased in so that there would be time to augment the capabilities of any existing custom programs (e.g., Web page generation, batch processes). Already, today's development tools make this an easy thing to accomplish.

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 their interest in testing.

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

Not in use in the gas industry, as far as we know.

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 create a work paper for purposes of discussion.