R00021
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 2, 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:

EDI/EDM software should be case-insensitive.

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):

The current EDM manual contains examples of HTTP data elements with both uppercase and lowercase values (e.g., "X12", "coolhost"). Software which evaluates any HTTP data element values should be insensitive to the case of the characters. For example, "X12" and "x12" should be treated as the same value.

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

While the EDM manual currently states that HTTP data element names should always be in lowercase (p. 63 of the .pdf file), no such language exists for the HTTP data element values. Making the software case-insensitive reduces the possibility of rejected HTTP messages by the receiving software. Also, this ensures that any data element value case ambiguity in the EDM manual examples will not be the source of problems during implementation.

gisb10.doc

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

It is likely that most implementations already provide for case-insensitivity. In those cases, there will be no incremental cost. For those who have not provided for this, the needed coding changes are very minor. Programming languages contain syntax which allows a data value to be changed to all upper or all lower case. Once this is done, the comparison can be made to a literal value in the desired case.

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):

Because this change is minor, it is recommended that testing be done by individual companies and their selected trading partners.

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

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