

NAESB Meeting on eTariff Development

February 1, 2007

FERC staff has prepared this document to provide the industries with advance background information about the eTariff proposal and the areas in which standards may be required to implement an eTariff database. The views expressed in this document are those of Commission staff, based on the existing NOPR proposal for eTariff, and do not necessarily constitute, reflect, or represent the views of the Commission or any Commissioner.

Purpose of the eTariff Program

The purpose of the eTariff program is to permit natural gas and oil pipelines and public utilities to make tariff filings, including rate schedules and contracts, so that the Commission upon receipt of the filing will be able to include the tariff sheets in a database that includes appropriate status information, such as proposed, suspended, effective. FERC will then be able to adjust the status of the tariff sheets based on Commission action on the filing. By using the status information, FERC and the public will be able to create an effective tariff. The database needs to permit users to search both the metadata as well as be word searchable.

FERC has developed a database program that is available and, perhaps with modifications, can be used to achieve these goals. It can be downloaded at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/etariff/fil-soft-help.asp>. Or, these goals can be achieved through standards for communicating the information electronically to FERC.

Examples of Basic Fields required for the tariff database

The following are examples of the fields and metadata required to accompany every filed tariff sheet/section. Some of this information would be captured in any type of electronic software (such as whether the filing is an initial or compliance filing), but some aspects are specific to the individual tariff sheets. Depending on the various factors such as whether distributed tariff data bases are used, fields may need to be added, removed, or modified.

Some of the following fields also may depend on whether the current tariff sheet number convention is used or a section convention is adopted.

Field	Comment
COMPANY ID	Company ID
SUBMISSION TYPE	This is a FERC-defined code value which determines the type of filing being provided. The code determines things such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A motion filing (gas)- Filing of initial baseline tariff sheets to establish the baseline tariff- Tariff section withdrawal- Compliance filing- Filing is auto-accepted- Applies when user must specify whether or not suspended sections should automatically go into effect (gas)- Indicates if filing is to amend a pending tariff section- Indicates if filing is to cancel a tariff
OPTION LETTER	In the case of filings with multiple tariff 'options', such as alternative

<i>Field</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	tariff language, this delineates the option (e.g. A, B, C, etc)
FILING IDENTIFICATION	An identifier that is guaranteed to be unique across all filings. This will be used when future filings need to refer to previous ones.
SECTION IDENTIFIER	This uniquely identifies a "section" of text. When changes to a specific section are proposed, the SECTION IDENTIFIER will always be used.
SECTION PARENT IDENTIFIER	This identifier is the SECTION IDENTIFIER of the parent section (if any). For example, section "Rate Schedule FTS-1 Rates" may be a subsection under a "Rate Summary" section.
SHEET OR SECTION NUMBER	This is a descriptive text value to describe the type of change or type of section (sheet) being proposed.
SECTION TITLE	This is the "Title" of the section. These may be blank if not necessary.
SECTION TEXT	Text of filed tariff section, including formatted rate tables (particularly for oil and electric).
SORTING VALUE	This would be used for sorting the order of subsections under their respective parent sections.
EFFECTIVE DATE	Proposed effective date of the tariff sheet
PRO FORMA FLAG	This would indicate that a proposed tariff change is Pro Forma.
PRIORITY ORDER	The priority level of this tariff text. E.g. if this tariff section is part of another filing (or stacked in the same filing), and has the same effective date, and are accepted by FERC, this value will determine order of succession.
ASSOCIATED FILING	The FILING IDENTIFICATION of the filing to which the current filing is linked. This may not be used (blank/null/zero/etc) if the filing type does not require it.
ASSOCIATED SECTION	The SECTION IDENTIFIER of the section to which this section is associated. This is not applicable in all cases.
ASSOCIATED OPTION	The OPTION LETTER (as described above) of the section with which this section is associated. This is not applicable in all cases.

The above is a simple listing. This list does not describe the specific nature/structure of filings and the data contained. This list also does not cover the issues regarding supporting files that come with tariff filings, e.g., the transmittal letter and other documents required by FERC when filing certain tariff filing types. For some filings, like rate cases, a large number of schedules and attachments need to be included with the filing. If the FERC distributed software is not used to effectuate filings, standards may be needed to govern the way in which these items plus potentially numerous tariff sections are linked to the filing through the FERC web page.

Also, the tariff section and filing data described above are in 2 different domains: 1) filing information, and 2) tariff section information. There is a hierarchical relation between these two: multiple tariff section items could be contained within a single filing. E.g. a single filing may contain 7 tariff section "records," but an identical tariff section cannot be contained in multiple filings.

Also, there are many other metadata elements that are expected to be generated behind the scenes by the distributed software or manually entered when the FERC web page is used. For example:

- company identifier
- filed date
- submission type (possibly validated against the company-chosen submission type)
- point of contact name, email, phone, etc.