

Decision 99-11-007 November 4, 1999

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Proposed Policies Governing Restructuring California's Electric Services Industry and Reforming Regulation.

Rulemaking 94-04-031
(Filed April 20, 1994)

Order Instituting Investigation on the Commission's Proposed Policies Governing Restructuring California's Electric Services Industry and Reforming Regulation.

Investigation 94-04-032
(Filed April 20, 1994)

OPINION REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE PROTOCOLS

In Decision (D.) 98-12-080, the Commission adopted the recommendation that electronic data interchange (EDI) protocols be used for transferring meter usage data information. The Commission directed the Energy Division to work with the Direct Access Tariff Review Committee (DATRC) to develop the proposed implementation plan for EDI.

The DATRC formed the Meter Usage Data Task Group (MUDTG) to develop the implementation plan. The MUDTG then held a series of meetings to develop the plan. As a result, the DATRC filed its "Proposed Statewide Implementation Guide For Electronic Data Interchange Protocols To Transfer Meter Usage Information" (EDI Report) with the Commission on April 2, 1999.

Enron raised several concerns in its comments to the EDI Report. Those concerns were addressed in D.99-07-007. In that decision, the Commission stated that Enron's comments affected some of the EDI protocols, and the manner in

which certain words or terminology could be interpreted. It was unclear, however, whether the issues that Enron raised, were brought up during the meetings of the MUDTG, or if they were raised for the first time in Enron's comments.

D.99-07-007 adopted the EDI protocols set forth in the EDI Report, and directed the MUDTG to review Enron's comments to determine whether any changes to the protocols contained in the EDI Report were needed. The MUDTG was directed to file a report on the status of the attempt to resolve Enron's concerns.

On August 23, 1999, the MUDTG filed its "Report Of The Direct Access Tariff Review Committee's Meter Usage Data Task Group In Compliance With Decision 99-07-007: Supplement To Proposed Statewide Implementation Guide For Electronic Data Interchange Standards To Transfer Meter Usage Information" (MUDTG Report).

According to the MUDTG Report, a meeting was held on July 23, 1999 to discuss Enron's comments to the EDI Report. The meeting was very productive, and allowed all of the meeting participants to reach closure on all twelve issues that had been identified by the MUDTG. These twelve issues were described in Attachment A of the MUDTG Report. For issues 1, 9 and 12, all that was needed were clarifications to the terms used in the EDI Report. Those clarifications are set forth in four revisions, which are shown in Attachment B of the MUDTG Report. For issues 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11, the meeting participants agreed that the issues were closed or resolved. For issues 2, 3 and 5, those issues were determined to involve underlying business processes rather than EDI formatting. The MUDTG recommends that those three issues be referred to the DATRC's task group which is reviewing issues associated with meter data management agents, and validation, editing and estimating of meter usage data.

The MUDTG recommends that the issues identified in D.99-07-007 be considered closed because the issues have either been resolved or determined not to be an EDI formatting issue. Except for the revisions contained in Attachment B of the MUDTG Report, the MUDTG also recommends that no additional changes be made to the protocols contained in the EDI Report. No one filed any comments to the MUDTG Report.

In D.99-07-007, the Commission adopted the EDI protocols that were set forth in the EDI Report subject to possible revisions. In Attachment B of the MUDTG Report, four revisions to the EDI Report have been suggested. Since no one has objected to the revisions, we will adopt the four revisions as part of the EDI protocols that the Commission previously adopted. No additional changes to the EDI protocols are needed at this time.

The EDI protocols as adopted in D.99-07-007, and as clarified by Attachment B of the MUDTG report, shall be used as the standard format for transmitting all meter usage data starting no later than February 1, 2000, unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

Comments on Draft Decision

The draft decision of the ALJ in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Pub. Util. Code § 311(g) and Rule 77.1 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure on October 5, 1999. No one filed any comments to the draft decision.

Findings of Fact

1. In D.98-12-080, the Commission adopted the recommendation that the EDI protocols be used to transfer meter usage data information, and directed that a proposed implementation plan for EDI be developed.

2. The DATRC proposed an implementation plan in the EDI Report that was filed on April 2, 1999.
3. Enron's concerns regarding the EDI Report were addressed in D.99-07-007.
4. D.99-07-007 adopted the EDI protocols set forth in the EDI Report, and directed the MUDTG to review Enron's comments to determine whether any changes to the protocols contained in the EDI Report were needed.
5. On August 23, 1999, the MUDTG Report was filed.
6. For issues 1, 9 and 12, four revisions to the EDI Report were suggested, as reflected in Attachment B of the MUDTG Report.
7. The MUDTG recommends that the issues identified in D.99-07-007 be considered closed because the issues have either been resolved or determined not to be an EDI formatting issue.
8. No one has objected to the MUDTG Report.

Conclusion of Law

The four revisions in Attachment B of the MUDTG Report should be adopted as part of the EDI protocols that the Commission previously adopted in D.99-07-007.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the electronic data interchange (EDI) protocols that were adopted in Decision (D.) 99-07-007, be revised as shown in Attachment B of the "Report Of The Direct Access Tariff Review Committee's Meter Usage Data Task Group In Compliance With D.99-07-007: Supplement To Proposed Statewide Implementation Guide For Electronic Data Interchange Standards To Transfer Meter Usage Information" (MUDTG Report).

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- a. The EDI protocols as adopted in D.99-07-007, and as clarified by Attachment B of the MUDTG Report, shall be used as the standard format for transmitting all meter usage data starting no later than February 1, 2000, unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

This order is effective today.

Dated November 4, 1999, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
JOEL Z. HYATT
CARL W. WOOD
Commissioners