

Purpose:

Discuss/document what level of testing the various Utilities are currently requiring and conducting when performing Phase III testing. Several Utilities have been given the go ahead from Staff to allow shortened versions of the standard tests from the TOPs. The goal is the modification of current TOP to formally allow for Utility discretion during Phase III testing.

NYSEG/RG&E

NYSEG and RG&E both use the Utility Bill Ready Billing. I imagine our processes and concerns are a little different than the Rate Ready Utilities.

EDI testing was becoming a huge effort because of the seemingly endless addition of new ESCOs, the frequent switches of an ESCO's 3rd party provider of EDI, bill option and or commodity additions, legal name changes, etc.. Many of the ESCOs were using the same 3rd party providers. It was discussed that much of this testing wasn't needed. Testing the same EDI Provider two dozen times, thru all the testing scenarios, didn't make good business sense. It was recognized that we simply were testing their knowledge of the Implementation Guides over and over again. We knew they had a good working knowledge of the IG's as they were in Production and currently exchanging transactions with us. We discussed with Staff. They agreed it made sense to allow the shortened tests we suggested. A quote from Staff ..." It makes sense, it accelerates the process for ESCOs and it saves money. Sounds like a win/win!".

We started using the shortened versions of the tests in September 2011. We have completed 106 EDI tests since then with 78 being the shortened versions. We have not seen an increase in EDI issues from what we had seen from before the shortened versions were started.

We talked to a few of the 3rd party EDI providers back in 2011 and learned that some States allowed simple connectivity tests before placing the ESCO into production. NYSEG/RG&E felt we needed a little more than that. We also wanted to test our setup to confirm that behind the scene tables were set correctly. We opted for a minimum test which would prove communication during one round-trip processing. A test where one

party would send a transaction to the other; then the second party would respond with a transaction and then it would be acknowledged/received by the first party.

A test plan was put together with this in mind. The tests are short. We have had 3rd parties finish testing both dual and single bill in one morning. Done in half a day or less. Again we are Bill Ready so there may be other things a Rate Ready Utility needs to consider.

As for what we have in an actual EDI test:

For core testing (dual billing) we simply had the ESCO send in an 814 enrollment attempt. We would then send the 814 response. When the ESCO verified they had received the response the test was complete.

For Single Bill testing we would send an 867 MU, the ESCO would reply with an 810 and then we would send the positive 824.