

RHODE ISLAND

Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards

**for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
in a Restructured Electric Industry**

***PREPARED BY:
THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY
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I. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Standard Electronic Data Formatting and Transmission

There are two components to be considered in the exchange of electronic transactions between The Narragansett Electric Company and Nonregulated Power Producers: the formatting of the data elements to be exchanged, and the transfer of the formatted transactions between the parties.

Electronic transactions between The Narragansett Electric Company and Nonregulated Power Producers will be formatted using standardized ANSI ASC X.12 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transaction sets which are market-specific versions of the guidelines established by the Utility Industry Group (UIG) for use in the utility industry. The data elements required for each transaction will be mapped to the appropriate EDI transaction as defined in the EDI Implementation Guidelines - Appendix A of this manual.

The transfer of data between The Narragansett Electric Company and Nonregulated Power Producers will occur via The Narragansett Electric Company approved electronic transmission vehicle, which may change from time to time. Presently, The Narragansett Electric Company is using a Value Added Network (VAN) for transfer of data. VANs are an established, reliable service for business-to-business data exchange, providing essential services for business-critical communications, which are not at this time widely available with alternative technologies. These services include:

- Security of transactions and Customer information
- Proof of transmission and receipt (non-repudiation)
- Reliability
- Data and file integrity
- Network performance and availability
- Recoverability and archiving of data.

II. IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

The following is offered for new market entrants, as a high level overview of the work required for implementing the Electronic Business Transactions contained in this report.

Tasks:

1. Acquire a copy of The Narragansett Electric Company Implementation Guidelines;
2. Select and install any required computer equipment and EDI translation software. Assure that the translation software supports the current version of the Implementation Guidelines;
3. Configure selected translation software to interpret the transactions sent and received by The Narragansett Electric Company's Customer and Billing systems;
4. The pre-production testing between The Narragansett Electric Company and the Nonregulated Power Producers of the translation software, application interfaces and data exchange may take several weeks; and
5. Finally, upon *successful* completion of testing and any other requirements, The Narragansett Electric Company will activate the Nonregulated Power Producer on their production business system.

III. TRANSACTIONS

ELECTRONIC BUSINESS TRANSACTION SET

The tables below contain the business flows and the electronic transactions that will govern the implementation of the Terms and Conditions for Nonregulated Power Producers.

EDI Transactions

Category	Business Function	Number	Flow
Account Administration EDI 814	Enroll Customer	814 - 1	NS to DC
	Successful Enrollment	814 - 2	DC to NS
	Change Supplier Data	814 - 3	CS to DC
	Change Distribution Data	814 - 4	DC to CS
	Customer Drops Supplier	814 - 5	DC to CS
	Supplier Drops Customer	814 - 6	CS to DC
	Confirm Drop Date	814 - 7	DC to CS
	Customer Move	814 - 8	DC to CS
	Error	814 - 9	DC to S
Usage/Billing EDI 810	Customer Usage Information - (Passthru Option)	810 - 1	DC to CS, FS
	Customer Usage and Billing Information - (Complete Option)	810 - 2	DC to CS, FS
Payments & Adjustments EDI 820	Customer Payment/Adjustment	820 - 1	DC to CS,FS
Functional Acknowledgment EDI 997	Functional Acknowledgment	997 - 1	DC to S, S to DC

Electronic-Mail Transaction

Settlement	Aggregate Load Estimate	EM - 1	DC to CS
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DC, Distribution Company/The Narragansett Electric Company; CS, Current Supplier; FS, Former Supplier; NS, New Supplier; S, Supplier

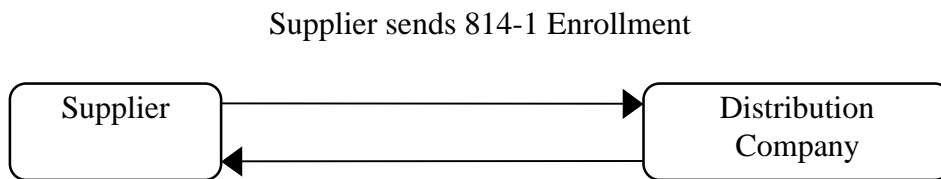
BUSINESS RULES

Below is a description of the business rules and a process flow of the electronic transactions that will govern the implementation of the Terms and Conditions for Nonregulated Power Producers (“Supplier”).

814 - ACCOUNT ADMINISTRATION

Transaction 814 - 1 Enroll Customer:

The Supplier notifies a Distribution Company to enroll an account. Such enrollment will become effective as of the Customer’s next cycle read date. The Enrollment transaction must be received by the Distribution Company no less than two (2) business days prior to the scheduled cycle meter-read date or the enrollment will be deferred to the following read date. An account will be associated with only one Supplier and one billing option.



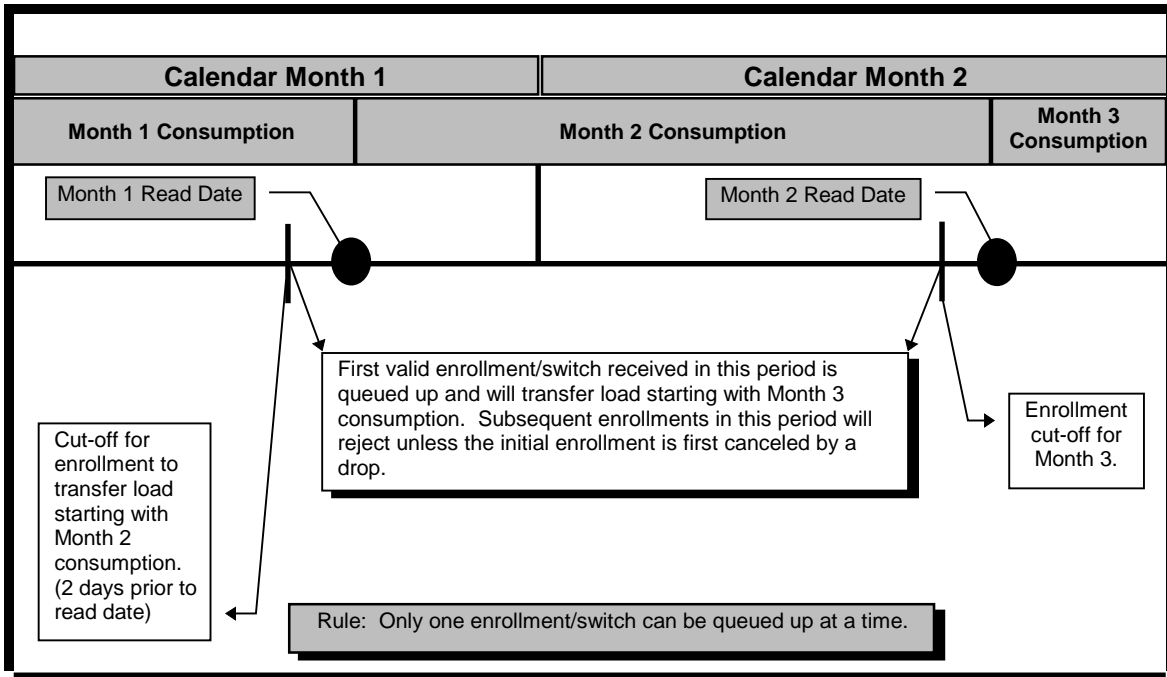
Distribution Company returns 814-2 Successful Enrollment or 814-9 Error

Multiple Enrollments: It is anticipated that a Customer will select a single Supplier per Account, the Supplier will allow any Customer right of rescission period to lapse, and will enroll the Customer with the Distribution Company, as outlined above. It is foreseeable, however, that there may be cases where the Customer selects more than one Supplier and that those Suppliers will attempt to enroll the same Customer during the same billing cycle.

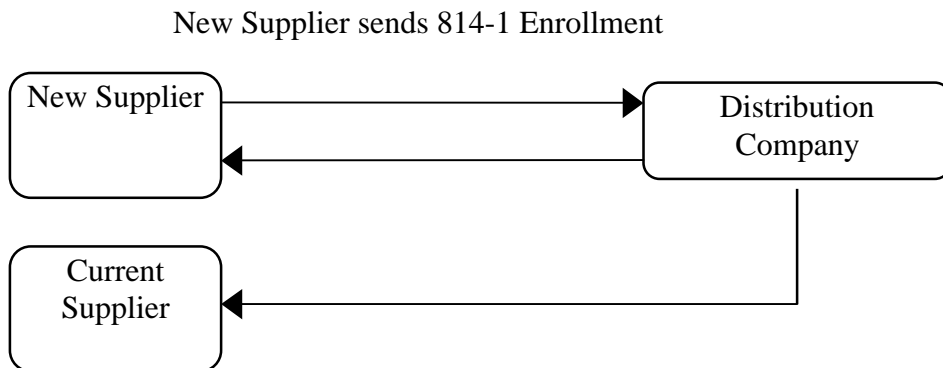
The Distribution Company processes the first valid enrollment transaction received by a Supplier during the enrollment period. Once an enrollment is in force, any other enrollment transaction for that Customer, during the enrollment period is rejected but may be resubmitted by the Supplier for processing in a subsequent period.

The enrollment period commences two business days prior to the Customer’s scheduled cycle meter-read date and ends two business days prior to the Customer’s next scheduled cycle meter-read date.

Enrollment Period Timeline



Customer Switching Supplier: When a Customer changes Supplier, it is only necessary for the new Supplier to send an Enrollment transaction. If successful, a Successful Enrollment transaction is returned to the new Supplier and a Customer Drops Supplier transaction is sent to the former Supplier. The Customer does not need to be concerned about dropping the former Supplier. That activity will be done automatically.

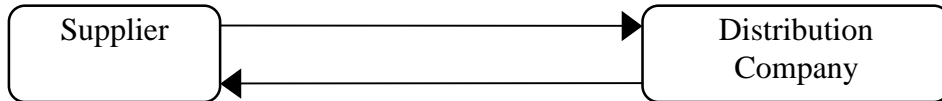


Distribution Company returns 814-2 Successful Enrollment or 814-9 Error to the New Supplier and sends 814-5 Customer Drops Supplier to the Current Supplier. The Distribution Company will also send and 810-1 or 810-2 at time of final billing.

Transaction 814 - 2 Successful Enrollment:

The Distribution Company sends this transaction to notify the new Supplier that an enrollment has been accepted. The Supplier's responsibility for Generation Service will begin as of the date indicated on the transaction.

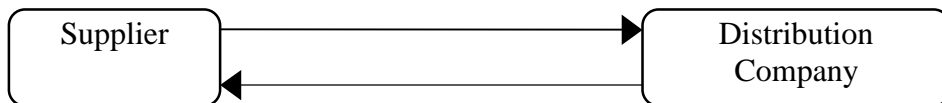
Supplier sends 814-1 Enrollment



Distribution Company returns 814-2 Successful Enrollment or 814-9 Error

Transaction 814 - 3 Change Supplier Data - Supplier to Distribution Company: The Supplier uses this transaction to notify the Distribution Company of changes to Supplier data related to a specific Customer account (e.g. Supplier billing rates). Changes would be effective on the day of the notification or the next cycle meter read date, as appropriate.

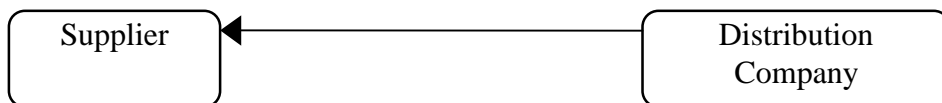
Supplier sends 814-3 Change Supplier Data



Distribution Company returns 814-9 Error, if applicable

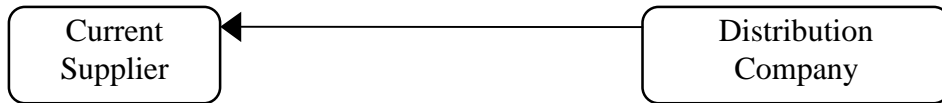
814 - 4 Change Distribution Data - Distribution Company to Supplier: The Distribution Company uses this transaction to notify the Supplier of changes to Distribution Company data related to a specific Customer account may also send the Supplier this transaction (e.g. Customer name change).

Distribution Company sends 814-4 Change Distribution Data



814 - 5 Customer Drops Supplier:

The Distribution Company sends this transaction to a current Supplier to notify the Supplier that, as of the effective date on the transaction, the Supplier will no longer be providing Generation Service to the Customer. This transaction is used in two situations: 1) a Customer switching Supplier or 2) a Customer initiated request to drop a Supplier.



Distribution Company sends and 814-5 Customer Drops Supplier

Customer Initiated Drop: A Customer may terminate Generation Service with a current Supplier by: 1) notifying the current Supplier or 2) notifying the Distribution Company.

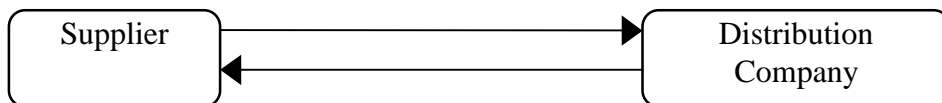
If the Customer notifies the current Supplier, the Supplier will send a Supplier Drops Customer transaction (814-6), described below.

If the Customer informs the Distribution Company directly, Generation Service will be terminated on the date of the Customer’s next scheduled meter read.

814 - 6 Supplier Drops Customer:

The Supplier notifies the Distribution Company to discontinue Generation Service for a Customer. Termination will become effective as of the Customer’s normal cycle meter-read date. After that date, the Customer will automatically receive Last Resort Service or Standard Offer according to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission regulations, orders and tariffs until they enroll with a new Supplier.

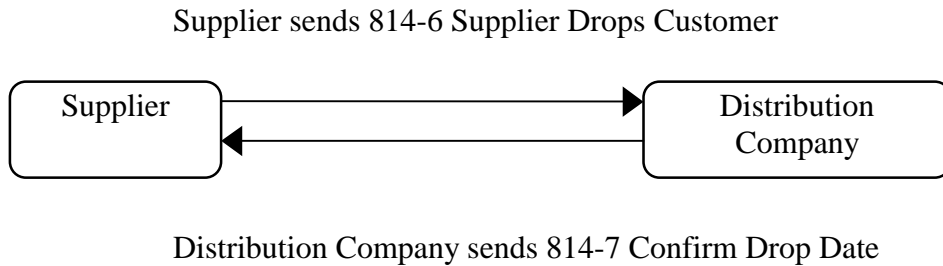
Supplier sends 814-6 Supplier Drops Customer



Distribution Company sends 814-7 Confirm Drop Date or 814-9 Error. At time of final bill, Distribution Company sends 810-1 or 810-2.

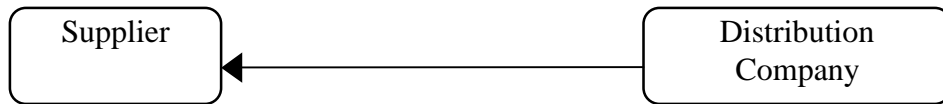
814 - 7 Confirm Drop Date:

When the Supplier Drops Customer transaction 814 - 6 (see above) is validated, a confirmation is returned to the Supplier to confirm the projected effective date of the termination of Generation Service from that Supplier.



814 - 8 Customer Move:

A Customer normally will contact a Customer Service Representative of their Distribution Company when they are moving. If the Customer is moving within the service territory, the Customer Service Representative will initiate action that will result in continuation of service with the same Supplier at the new address, unless the Customer indicates that they wish to return to Standard Offer (if applicable) or Last Resort Service.



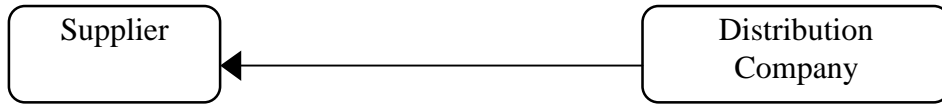
Distribution Company sends 814-8 Customer Move (if the Customer is continuing Generation Service with the Supplier) and 810-1 or 810-2 upon final billing at the old location.

If a Customer is moving within a given service territory and desires to continue competitive supply, but with a different Supplier, they can simply authorize the new Supplier to enroll them with the Distribution Company via an 814-1 transaction (see above).

Outside a Service Territory: When a Customer moves outside of the Distribution Company service territory, the Supplier will be sent final Customer Usage or Customer Billing and Usage Information to allow the completion of the Customer accounting process.

814 - 9 Error Transaction:

If an Enrollment, Change or Supplier Drops Customer transaction is rejected by the Distribution Company, an error transaction will be returned to the Supplier identifying the rejected record and the reason(s) for the rejection.

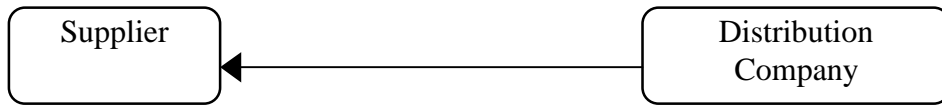


Distribution Company sends 814-9 Error

810 - MONTHLY USAGE/BILLING

810 - 1 Customer Usage Information - Passthru Billing Option:

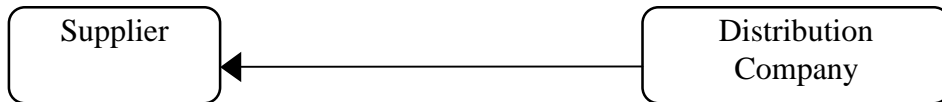
After the meter reading data is obtained and validated, the Distribution Company will provide the Customer's Supplier with consumption information to facilitate Supplier billing.



Distribution Company sends 810-1 Customer Usage Information

810 - 2 Customer Usage and Billing Information - Complete Billing Option:

After the meter reading data is obtained, validated and charges calculated, the Distribution Company will provide the Customer's Supplier with consumption and billing information.



Distribution Company sends 810-2 Customer Usage and Billing Information

Final Billing: When a Customer moves or is no longer a Customer of record, the Distribution Company renders a Final Bill to the Customer, at that location. At that time the Distribution Company sends the Supplier the final Usage, or Billing and Usage information as appropriate. This process is also followed if the Distribution

Electronic Business Transaction Standards

Company discontinues Distribution Service to a Customer in accordance with provisions set forth in the Terms and Conditions for Distribution Service.

As described in Section V, validated billing and usage information will be transmitted to Suppliers by noon of the day following the Distribution Company's processing cycle.

Arrears Processing - Complete Billing: Within the billing information, the Suppliers arrears will be calculated using the same rules that the Distribution Company uses.

Whenever a Customer switches Suppliers, there is a chance that there will be outstanding arrears for the former Supplier.

The Distribution Company will carry the former Supplier's arrears on the bill for two billing cycles. Then, an adjustment transaction (820 - 1) will be used to settle the account with the Supplier.

It is the Supplier's responsibility to pursue credit and collection activity on the outstanding arrears after the Distribution Company has changed the Customer's Supplier, even if the Complete Billing Option had been in effect when the Customer was current.

As the Distribution Company collects money from the Customer, and that money is determined to be applied to the Supplier portion of the bill, it will be applied against the oldest Supplier's outstanding arrears first.

Bill Cancellation: When it is determined that a consumption-based adjustment to a Customer bill is necessary, the Distribution Company will notify the Supplier(s) of the cancellation of the original bill by sending an 810 - 1 or an 810 - 2 transaction (depending on the billing option) with a cancellation activity code. Numeric fields will be sent as originally billed, i.e. not negated, since the activity code determines the purpose of the transaction. The Supplier can then apply the amounts to their own system as needed.

Rebilling of Canceled Amounts: If a rebill of the canceled billing is appropriate, the Distribution Company will notify the Supplier(s) of the corrected consumption amounts being billed by sending an 810 - 1 or an 810 - 2 transaction (depending on the billing option).

If the cancellation and/or rebill covers a period of historical consumption in which the Customer's accounts/receivable information for the Supplier is no longer available (i.e. beyond two scheduled bills following the last bill with the Supplier, and an 820 - 1 Payment and Adjustment transaction has been sent to the Supplier), the Distribution

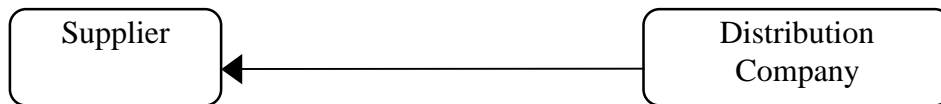
Company will send only the canceled and/or rebilled usage to the Supplier, even if the Customer had originally been receiving a Complete bill.

820 - PAYMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS

****Complete Billing Option Only****

820 - 1 Customer Payments and Adjustments:

Each business day, information about recorded Customers' payments and adjustments is sent to those Customers' Suppliers. Recorded payments set up the trigger to release the funds to those Suppliers.



Distribution Company sends 820-1 Customer Payments and Adjustments

The Payment and Adjustment transaction serves two purposes for Complete Billing:

1. It notifies the Supplier of the individual items which, when totaled, equal the amount owed to the Supplier by the Distribution company. (In rare instances, it may possibly be the other way around, with the Supplier owing the Distribution Company.) Customer payments and certain adjustments directly affect the amount of money that is owed between the Distribution Company and the Supplier. The actual money transfer is done separately from the 820 transaction; most likely via an ACH. The adjustments, that along with payments, affect the amount owed are:
 - **Transfer** - EBT Payment/Adjustment Type - Code 002, most commonly used for misapplied payments.
 - **Bad Check Return** - EBT Payment/Adjustment Type - Code 003, reversals of payments after the bank returns a check.
2. The 820 transaction also notifies the Supplier of other items which are adjustments to the Customer's balance with the Supplier. These adjustments do not affect what the Distribution Company owes the Supplier or vice versa. These adjustments are reported as notifications only. They do not affect the amount owed because they become part of the Customer's next bill and are thus paid for through future payments from the Customer.

- **Arrears Interest** – EBT Payment/ Adjustment Type - Code 004, usually a cancellation of late payment or a charging of late payment that was not originally charged.
- **Sales Tax** - EBT Payment/Adjustment Type - Code 005, typically a cancellation of sales tax, but could be used to bill sales tax if the account was previously exempt in error.
- **Adjustment** – EBT Payment/Adjustment Type - Code 006, a miscellaneous adjustment designed for unusual situations.
- **Supplier Balance Write-off** - EBT Payment/Adjustment Type - Code 007, designed to notify a former Supplier that the Distribution Company is charging back a final balance owed by the Customer.

997 - FUNCTIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

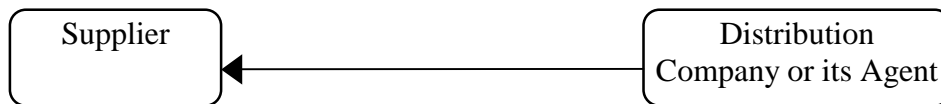
997 Functional Acknowledgment:

The Distribution Company and the Supplier receiving incoming EDI transactions will respond with a functional acknowledgment within one (1) business day of receipt of the transaction.

E-MAIL SETTLEMENT TRANSACTION

EM - 1 Aggregate Load Estimate:

As the daily load estimate information is made available to ISO New England, it will be sent to those Suppliers who request the information.



Distribution Company sends EM-1 Aggregate Load Estimate

IV. GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Aggregator: A group or organization that joins consumers together to increase their buying power and receive discounts and other benefits from suppliers. Aggregators can serve residential, business, communities and/or other groups. They may be municipal cooperatives or consumer buying groups.

Complete Billing: A billing option whereby the Distribution Company submits a single bill to the Customer that includes both the Distribution Company charges and the Supplier charges.

Customer: Any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, whether public or private, who obtains Distribution Service at a Customer delivery point and who is a Customer of record of the Company.

Distribution Company: A company engaging in the distribution of electricity to Retail Customers or owning, operating, or controlling Distribution Facilities.

Distribution Company Customer Account or Account: A delivery point for a Customer, as referenced by a unique number, usually premise specific, which may include multiple meters and/or services. A Distribution Company Customer may have multiple accounts.

Distribution Service: The delivery of electricity to a Customer by the Distribution Company at a point metered or otherwise designated by the Company located on the Customer's premise.

Electronic Business Transactions (EBT): A group of electronic transactions which allows the Distribution Companies and Suppliers to communicate in a standard format.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI): The electronic exchange of business documents in a standard computer processable data format.

EDI Translator: A computer program that converts electronic transactions to/from EDI format.

Enroll: The process of signing up a Customer for competitive generation supply. A Customer is considered enrolled when a successful enrollment transaction is returned by the Distribution Company.

Implementation Guidelines: Documentation used to map the Rhode Island EBT's to standard EDI formats.

Electronic Business Transaction Standards

Last Resort Service: The service provided by the Distribution Company to a Customer who is not receiving either Generation Service from a Supplier or Standard Offer Service, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Distribution Company's Last Resort Service tariff.

Nonregulated Power Producer (Supplier): Any entity licensed by the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers to sell electricity to retail Customers in Rhode Island, with the following exceptions: (1) a Distribution Company providing Standard Offer Service and Last Resort Service to its distribution Customers.

Passback Billing: A billing option whereby the Distribution Company will pass Customer's usage and demand information obtained via meter reads to the Supplier and the Supplier will pass back to the Distribution Company a bill amount for inclusion in each customer's bill. The Distribution Company will submit a single bill to the Customers that includes both Distribution Company charges and the Supplier charges.

Passthru Billing: A billing option whereby the Distribution Company submits a bill to the Customer for Distribution Company charges and the Supplier submits a separate bill for Supplier charges and any other services it offers.

Standard Offer Service: Any new customer or customer of record with the Distribution Company as of December 31, 1997 who has not chosen to take Generation Service from a Supplier will be billed under this optional rate. Under Rhode Island Law, the Standard Offer will no longer be available after the year 2009.

Terms and Conditions for Nonregulated Power Producer: A set of rules approved by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, which govern the relationship between Distribution Companies, Nonregulated Power Producers and Customers.

Trading Partners: The parties participating in the electronic exchange of information.

Utility Industry Group (UIG): A national group which establishes industry guidelines for the formatting of electronic transactions.

Value Added Network (VAN): A commercial network which enables the electronic exchange of information between Trading Partners.

V. COMPUTER OPERATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Operational issues (both manual and automated) can have a significant effect on the efficiency and consistency of business processes. The following principles for computer operations have been identified:

- Data processing must be reliable, predictable, accurate and efficient;
- Transaction processing must be equitable and verifiable;
- Operational schedules should accommodate normal daily processing;
- The process must be designed to detect and report errors; and
- Responsibility must be clearly assigned.

Computer operations issues have been categorized into the following topics:

1. Scheduling
2. File Handling
3. Error Handling
4. Recovery

Scheduling

The daily computer operation schedule of The Narragansett Electric Company has been reviewed in order to develop a baseline schedule. A common schedule pertaining to a normal business day is as follows:

- Noon is defined as Eastern Standard Time or Eastern Daylight Time.
- Supplier transactions must be ready for The Narragansett Electric Company processing by noon each business day.
- Transactions received by noon of the current business day will be processed and responded to by noon the following business day.
- Validated billing and usage transactions will be transmitted to Suppliers by noon of the day following The Narragansett Electric Company processing cycle.

The Narragansett Electric Company publishes their daily operation schedule on their website, as a guideline to Suppliers. The schedule should include cycle reading and billing dates, processing “work days” and “no work” days (i.e., holidays, weekends).

File Handling

The operational guidelines pertaining to file handling are based on the business rules defined in Section I, Information Exchange of this document concerning transaction standards and data transmission. It should be considered that changes to those business rules could impact file handling.

Electronic Business Transaction Standards

- The Narragansett Electric Company will process all files sent by Supplier(s) unless specific action is taken by the Supplier(s) to avert processing (i.e., delete files, replace files). Refer to the Error Handling section for additional information.
- The recipient of a file (Supplier or The Narragansett Electric Company) is responsible for reviewing (editing) file contents to prevent adverse impact on the recipient's operations or systems (data errors, duplicate files, illogical conditions, etc.). The recipient of a file has the right to reject the file in whole or in part due to content or protocol errors. In the event that a file is rejected, the detail transactions will not be processed.
- The creator of a file is responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the contents.
- All data exchanges will be done in a pre-established manner to ensure data security and integrity (refer to Section I, Information Exchange).
- Each file will have one recipient, and should contain transactions intended only for that recipient. A file may contain multiple transactions of the same or different type for the same Customer account.
- Files will be processed by the recipient according to the recipient's operating schedule. The Narragansett Electric Company will retrieve transmissions at least once each business day and will process all files that are available by the cut-off and up to the time of the last retrieval .
- Files will be processed in chronological order. To ensure accurate and consistent posting of individual transactions, The Narragansett Electric Company will validate them in physical sequence as presented on the input files. Errors and confirmations (e.g., Successful Enrollments) will be returned to Suppliers the next business day following the receipt of the transactions by The Narragansett Electric Company.
- Daily transaction exchange between Suppliers and The Narragansett Electric Company will generally not be limited in terms of the total number of files or transactions processed on a daily basis.

Error Handling

Each trading partner must establish two points of contact: one for technical issues, and another for business issues. Each trading partner should establish appropriate procedures for problem resolution such that problems are identified, documented, properly classified and resolved in a timely manner.

Because access to and manipulation of data must be controlled, the creator of a file is responsible for correcting any errors in the data. No transaction that contains error(s) will be accepted.

Recovery

A sound operation includes data recovery procedures that can be invoked in the event of unexpected situations that require transactions to be resubmitted for any reason. The

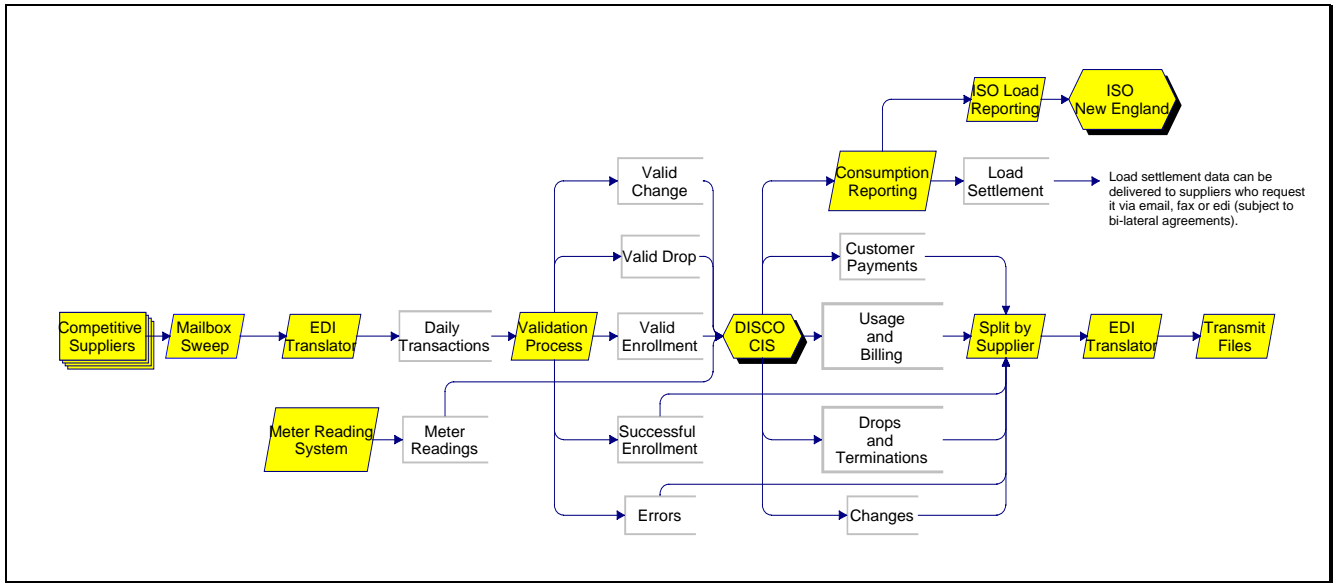
Electronic Business Transaction Standards

primary purpose of these recovery procedures is to protect the originator of a file from damages related to loss of the data.

No matter what specific transmission method is used, the originator needs procedures so a file can be retransmitted or simply omitted from the job stream (unreadable data, invalid header, file control error, etc.). Supplier will have to coordinate with The Narragansett Electric Company in order to omit a file (dictated by The Narragansett Electric Company's operational schedule); other conditions are addressed in the "File Handling" section.

It is the responsibility of the originator of a file to maintain the ability to retransmit the data. In lieu of regulations that may specify data retention requirements, the specific recovery guidelines are left up to each trading partner. The minimum recovery criteria based on the normal file creation schedule is recommended to be: Files created daily, recover or recreate up to 30 files.

Exhibit A: Electronic Business Transaction Process Flow



This diagram is for example only. It depicts the essential components (in terms of Supplier interfaces) of a generic Distribution Company’s computer operations processing cycle. The complete process occurs over a 24 hour period (noon to noon) and includes:

- Daily input and validation of Supplier input transactions (Enrollments, etc.)
- Distribution Company billing cycle (“Distribution Company CIS”)
- ISO New England load estimating and reporting
- Daily output to the Suppliers (Successful Enrollments, Usage and Billing, Customer Payments, Errors, Load Settlement, etc.).

VI. TESTING

Testing Requirements

Prior to providing power supply service to any retail Customer a Nonregulated Power Producer (“Supplier”) of competitive services must demonstrate its capability to electronically exchange data with The Narragansett Electric Company. Successful testing must be completed prior to the first enrollment transaction being submitted to The Narragansett Electric Company.

The purpose of the testing is to verify that the Supplier is capable of complying with the data transfer standards specified in this document and has the necessary software and hardware required to send, receive, and translate the standard transactions required to do business with The Narragansett Electric Company.

Compliance testing for Suppliers will be accomplished by exchanging a standard set of test transactions with The Narragansett Electric Company. The Testing Standards provide for a two week notice in order for the Supplier and The Narragansett Electric Company to set up the test.

The test utilizes transactions from the standard transaction set described herein, and verification of 100% error free transmission, receipt, and translation of the data by both Supplier and The Narragansett Electric Company. The approved data transfer system will be used for the data exchange tests.

Test Completion

Upon *successful* completion of the test, (and other requirements) The Narragansett Electric Company will activate the Supplier on their production business system.

Updates to Test Standards

The details of the test procedures, test cases and transactions may vary over time. The most current version of the approved test plan can be obtained from The Narragansett Electric Company.