

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Standards for Business Practices and
Communication Protocols for Public
Utilities**

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Docket No. RM05-5-022

**EXPEDITED MOTION FOR FURTHER EXTENSION OF TIME
SUBMITTED BY THE EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE**

Pursuant to Rules 212 and 2008 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission)’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.212 and 385.2008, and for good cause as discussed in the remainder of this motion, the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) hereby submits this expedited motion for further extension of time in this docket.

In recognition that fully functional software needed to implement Order No. 676-H¹ is not yet available and will take significant additional time to develop, and that once fully functional software is available transmission providers and their customers will need additional time to complete remaining tasks set out in the order, EEI respectfully requests that the Commission: (1) extend the current Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) on Open-Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS) June 24 and July 25, 2016 deadlines set in the Commission’s March 17, 2016 Notice Granting Limited Time Extension in this docket (March 17 Notice) to two months and three months, respectively, after fully functional software is available to meet the deadlines, but not between December 1 and January 31 to avoid conflicts

¹ *Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities*, 148 FERC ¶ 61,205 (2014).

with end-of-year filings and holidays; and (2) request that the primary software developer Open Access Technology, Inc. (OATI) file monthly status reports regarding progress made toward remedying missing functionality and other issues that have been identified by OATI, transmission providers, and others, with the opportunity for transmission providers to respond to the reports once filed.

Alternatively, if the Commission prefers to extend the current June 24 and July 25 deadlines to specific dates, EEI requests that the Commission extend the deadlines to February 1 and March 1, 2017, respectively, recognizing that a further extension will be necessary if fully functional software is not available before the end of this coming November. EEI proposes these deadlines because of the uncertainty regarding the timing of availability of the fully functional software, the substantial work remaining to be done to provide fully functional software, and the substantial work that transmission providers and their customers will need to undertake once fully functional software is available, while also avoiding conflicts with end-of-year filing deadlines and holidays.

BACKGROUND

In Order No. 676-H, the Commission directed transmission providers to enable their customers to arrange NITS on the transmission providers' OASIS websites, applying standards developed by the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB). With certain exceptions, the Commission incorporated the NAESB standards into its regulations, and the Commission set deadlines for completing the transition to the new OASIS-based NITS approach by earlier this year.

In February and March this year, EEI and others filed motions seeking extension of those deadlines.² EEI and others requested the extension because OATI, the primary developer of software that most transmission providers use for their OASIS websites and will use to implement the new OASIS NITS requirements, was still in the process of developing that software.

In response, the Commission issued its March 17 Notice extending the deadlines. Specifically, the Commission extended to June 24, 2016, the deadline for posting information about existing NITS arrangements using the new OASIS-based approach. Further, the Commission extended to July 25, 2016, the deadline for implementing and supporting customer use of the new OASIS-based approach.

With just over two weeks before the June 24 extended deadline, OATI continues to work with transmission providers to provide the functionality necessary to implement Order No. 676-H. Though significant progress has been made in refining the software, a substantial amount of work remains to be done to make the software fully functional.

MOTION

EEI is the association of U.S. shareholder-owned electric utilities, many of which provide transmission services directly or indirectly via regional transmission organizations and independent system operators. As such, its members are directly or indirectly responsible for implementing Order No. 676-H to enable their transmission customers to arrange NITS via their respective OASIS sites. Thus, EEI is filing this motion requesting generic relief as to deadlines

² EEI filed its motion on March 4, 2016 (March 4 Motion). We incorporate that motion by reference here, including as to the details of Order No. 676-H and the original deadlines set in the order.

set in the March 17 Notice in this docket because many EEI members are subject to the current deadlines and are raising concerns about the viability of those deadlines.

The Commission may, for good cause, extend the time for compliance with a Commission order unless otherwise provided by law.³ To determine if good cause exists, the Commission will review the facts surrounding a request for an extension of time.⁴ As described below, good cause exists here for the Commission to grant EEI's request for an extension of time. Further, to our knowledge, no constraint "otherwise provided by law" prevents the extension.

As EEI explained in its March 4 Motion, most transmission providers responsible for implementing the provisions of Order No. 676-H will be relying on software being developed by OATI. While OATI has released several iterations of this software, both OATI and EEI members have found that the software is still missing substantial functionality that must be added, modified, or customized to meet various parts of the new NITS standards, including but not limited to:

- Standard WEQ-001-105.6, which provides for concomitant evaluation of a request to terminate a Network Resource and a request for Network or Point-to-Point transmission service on a single Transmission Provider's system;
- Standard WEQ-001-23, which provides for coordination of requests for service across multiple transmission systems;

³ See 18 C.F.R. § 385.2008.

⁴ See, e.g., Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District, 31 FERC ¶ 61,201 at 61,413 (1985).

- Standard WEQ-002-101.3.3.6, which identifies generation assets that may be declared as Network Resources and designated to serve load under an Eligible Customer or Transmission Customer’s NITS Application, and permits each generation asset to be assigned to a “group”;
- Standard WEQ-001-13.1.3(b), which provides that the transmission provider must establish a link to transmission service request metrics on its OASIS site;⁵
- Standard WEQ-001-4.14 through 4.27, which provides for negotiations as to competing bids for constrained resources;⁶ and
- Standard WEQ-013 101.4, which provides for annulment of a network transmission service request.

At the moment, the available software has a user interface for simultaneous termination of a single Network Resource and request for Network or Point-to-Point transmission service. However, to be fully functional the software must be functional beyond the user interface. For example, the system must be capable of processing such requests concomitantly including impacts to Available Transfer Capability (ATC), evaluation of existing rights, and more. The ability to process complex, related requests is necessary for full implementation of NITS on OASIS. However, the software is not yet capable of multi-system requests, grouping Network

⁵ While this specific standard is not new, there are posting requirements related to NITS that must interact with the new NITS software.

⁶ Again, while this is not a new standard, there are network-specific items that require a functioning NITS module to complete properly.

Resources, annulling network transmission service requests, or numerous other functions, as described in this filing.

EEI members have identified a number of specific areas in which the OATI software is not yet fully functional, including the following:

1. The Concomitant function currently allows ATC concomitant evaluations but not available flowgate capacity (AFC) evaluations;
2. The stacking of generation in a group, generally used for tagging purposes, does not accommodate different generation stop dates;
3. The NITS Request Validation function does not yet work;
4. The NITS Secondary Timing Validation function does not yet work;
5. The Transmission Service Request Metrics report is still being finalized and has yet to be verified by transmission providers;
6. The Annulment function does not yet work and is not expected to go to demo until July 13 despite an anticipated manual work-around for use by OATI staff from June 24 to July 13;
7. The Billing of NITS Service function does not yet work;
8. Scheduling Agents cannot yet dependably reserve Secondary Service;
9. The Secondary Request Auto Retract function does not yet work;
10. The NITS Alarms are not yet working;

11. The AddNITSGen Capacity does not allow entry of decimals, which in turn affects generation and MVAR entries and misrepresents the numbers by rounding up or rounding down;
12. The Download CSV function is not available; and
13. The Simultaneous Submission Window (SSW) add-on module, for transmission providers that have “no earlier than” submissions of Firm and Network service, does not properly assign a ranking order for NITS Designated Network Resources (DNRs) that are deemed submitted simultaneously, a constraint that if uncorrected will force transmission providers to assign simultaneously-submitted DNRs a processing order that could require Tariff and business practice changes.

Furthermore, some problems in the assignment of Scheduling Rights have cropped up for several western utilities. These problems are driven by the fact that there are various segments of paths involved with the delivery of energy to load. But the way the Scheduling Rights function has been built, the current software does not allow for segment impacts, only for full path assignments. This means that the software double-counts capacity being committed on segments, erroneously showing ATC as being exceeded when in fact it is not.

Not only are these elements needed to have fully functional software, they are essential to ensure and preserve the existing rights of NITS customers and accurately to represent generation, transmission, and scheduling rights.

It is difficult to tell how many other issues there are or may be with the software because transmission providers have identified many of the known problems, there is no central issues

list (or at least not one that has been shared with transmission providers), and transmission providers are continuously identifying new issues. Moreover, once the known problems are fixed, they will need to be tested by each transmission provider to ensure the solutions are indeed ready for production and work as expected/required before the software is made available to customers for their own testing and use.

As these known functionality issues are addressed, additional concerns may arise as to the functionality needed to meet the Order No. 676-H requirements, and further iterations of the software are likely to be needed before transmission providers and their customers will be able to use the software to arrange NITS through transmission providers' OASIS sites.

As demonstrated by the ongoing efforts, refining the software to make it fully functional is a multi-prong effort. The software needs to be capable of handling the tasks assigned to it, user-friendly, accurate, reliable, adaptable, supportable, and able to meet performance standards for speed, efficiency, and capacity, among other features. This involves a dialogue between the software developer and those using the software, ultimately including testing by both transmission providers and their customers. Thus, completing work on the software to make it fully functional to meet the Order No. 676-H requirements is an iterative process, making it hard to predict with certainty when the process will be completed.

To ensure that efforts to provide fully functional software stay on track, EEI encourages the Commission to request that OATI, in dialogue with transmission providers, provide monthly updates in this docket as to the status of the software, reflecting the software's current capability and remaining gaps in functionality, including issues and concerns raised by transmission providers who have attempted to use the software, as well as the anticipated timeline for next

iterations of the software and for further testing of those iterations. To the extent that transmission providers have concerns about or wish to supplement OATI's statements, they should have the opportunity to submit responses.

Such reporting will enable the Commission to review all information associated with the progress of the software development prior to any additional decision-making. If the Commission or Commission staff believes that the software development and testing process is not progressing sufficiently well or quickly, the Commission or its staff could communicate this concern to OATI, or possibly take other measures such as convening a technical conference, to move the process along.

Once fully functional software is available from OATI, transmission providers will need an additional two and three months, respectively, to meet the requirements currently due June 24 and July 25. Transmission providers will need this time to do the following: test the new software, modify any necessary internal interfaces between such software and other computer systems to make appropriate accommodations for the software and vice versa, train their staff and their customers' staff on use of the new software, develop and post new or modified business practices, post information about existing NITS arrangements using the new software, and take other steps needed to ensure a smooth transition to use of the new software.

Moreover, transmission providers also will need to provide their customers with adequate time to verify their information and to adjust to using the new NITS scheduling templates prior to full implementation of this new functionality into the transmission providers' production OASIS websites. This part of the post-functional software process is critically important, because if customers make mistakes when managing their NITS reservations, there can be

significant adverse impacts on the customers, the generation resources on which they are relying, and the loads they are serving. These impacts can best be avoided by allowing transmission customers the time necessary to ensure that they understand and are capable of using the new NITS templates. Transmission providers also are likely to need to work with customers who are not currently registered for access to OASIS websites in order for the customers to become registered, a process that itself can take a couple of weeks. Without time needed to perform these steps, transmission providers and their customers will be at risk of significant problems in reserving and scheduling transmission service, including the potential for loss of rights to serve load.

As an example of the hurdles that transmission providers and their customers face, for one transmission provider alone, the post-functional-software work will involve a number of steps, including:

- a. The company will need to enter into its OASIS system all of the customer data to a confirmed state. This customer data consists of approximately 200 to 220 data templates. While over half of the data has been entered into a presubmitted state, the remainder will have to be entered once the system becomes capable. Then, before the data can be relied on for scheduling transmission service and serving load, all of the data will need to be brought to a confirmed state within the OASIS. Per the NAESB standards, the status of each data template must be changed from PRESUBMITTED to QUEUED to RECEIVED to COMPLETED to ACCEPTED. This is a manual process for the initial cutover.
- b. A cutover date has to be coordinated with each of the company's 27 customers. The Scheduling Right (SR) will be set to begin on that cutover date, and the

network Transmission Service Request (TSR) capacity will be recalled from that date forward. There are approximately 70 SRs and TSRs to coordinate.

- c. Because network TSRs are no longer allowed under the NAESB standards, firm capacity previously reserved for roll-over rights (ROR_F) based on existing TSRs must be annulled. Thus, each ROR_F for existing Network TSRs will have to be annulled to accommodate the use of DNRs within the new NITS templates as described below.
- d. For DNRs less than 5 years, the transmission associated with each DNR will be set aside from the end date of the DNR to the end date of each agreement. There are approximately 17 of these for the company.
- e. For all DNRs associated with agreements longer than 5 years, the transmission beyond the end of the agreement will be set aside as ROR_F . There are around 70 of these.
- f. The company will need to ensure that each customer has the capability to schedule against and make requests in the new NITS system or has an agent that can do so.
- g. The company will need to thoroughly review and approve its implementing business practices, which will then have to be posted to OASIS for review and comment for 30 days before becoming effective.
- h. The company will need to verify that scheduling rights impacts are accurate and appropriate and will need to confirm loads.

As EEI noted in our March 4 Motion, this post-functional-software work will entail extensive data entry, software integration, interfacing among intra-company systems, and training of transmission provider and customer staff. Also, several of the required activities will

depend on the timeliness of previous activities. For example, customer training will require a transmission provider to coordinate the schedules of its subject matter experts with those of its customers, and such training is a pivotal step that must occur before customer verification of data can proceed. EEI understands that transmission providers are very concerned about their ability to coordinate such schedules, complete all training, and enter and verify all data in the limited amount of time that they will have between the delivery of fully functional software from the vendor and the required timing for the posting of NITS customer data.

In light of the foregoing activities, transmission providers will need at least two and three months after fully functional software is available to meet the requirements currently due June 24 and July 25, respectively. In addition, EEI encourages the Commission to avoid having the deadlines fall between December 1 and January 31, to avoid conflict with end-of-year filing requirements and holidays.

If the Commission prefers to set specific new deadlines, we encourage the Commission to set the deadlines as February 1 and March 1, 2017, respectively, using the monthly status reports and industry feedback on the reports to keep the process on track, and recognizing that a further request for extension could end up being necessary. Again, EEI proposes these deadlines because of the uncertainty regarding the timing of availability of the fully functional software, the numerous steps described above needed to provide fully functional software and to complete work transmission providers and their customers need to undertake after fully functional software is available, and the need to avoid conflicts with end-of-year filings and holidays.

Given that the software functionality issues are common across our industry, EEI encourages the Commission to provide generic relief as to the deadlines for all transmission

providers, rather than requiring each individual transmission provider to file a request for extension of time. Generic relief would provide uniformity, clarity, and efficiency.⁷

Also, given that the June 24 and July 25 deadlines are fairly close at hand, EEI requests that the Commission expedite its response to this motion, in order to provide all parties with timely relief from the deadlines and certainty as to next steps in complying with Order No. 676-H. We encourage the Commission to shorten the period for responses to this motion to 5 days⁸ and issue an order granting the extension of the deadlines as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary burdens and related costs on industry and customers.

CONCLUSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

EEI requests that the Commission extend the current June 24 and July 25, 2016 deadlines in this docket to two and three months after fully functional software capable of implementing the requirements of Order No. 676-H is available, and to avoid having the deadlines fall between December 1 and January 31. (As a second-best alternative, the Commission could extend the deadlines to February 1 and March 1, 2017, recognizing that the ability to meet those fixed deadlines is uncertain.) EEI also recommends that the Commission request that OATI provide monthly status reports (with input by transmission providers) on progress toward fully functional

⁷ EEI recognizes that the Commission's order on rehearing to Order No. 676-H might be construed to indicate that a utility encountering implementation problems should file requests for extensions of time in that utility's specific docket, as some already have done. See *Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities*, 151 FERC ¶ 61,046, paragraph 24 (2016). However, given the systemic, industry-wide implementation problems associated with OATI's development of the requisite software, good cause exists to grant the general extension of time requested by this motion.

⁸ For example, a five-day answer period is consistent with the Commission's decision in Order No. 769 to modify the Commission's regulations to establish a five day answer period for certain motions for extension of time. See *Filing of Privileged Materials and Answers to Motions*, Order No. 769, 141 FERC ¶ 61,049 at P 85 (2012) ("five days provides a reasonable time for answers."); see also *Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure*, Notice Shortening Answer Period, Docket Nos. RM12-6-000, RM12-7-000 (issued May 24, 2013) (Commission granted motion to shorten the date for filing answers).

software and allow transmission providers to respond with further observations. EEI encourages the Commission to provide this relief generically, and to provide an expedited response to this motion.

If the Commission has any questions about this motion, or needs additional information, please contact either of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

Henri D. Bartholomot
Associate General Counsel, Regulatory & Litigation
hbartholomot@eei.org
202/508-5622

Aryeh B. Fishman
Associate General Counsel, Regulatory Legal Affairs
afishman@eei.org
202/508-5023

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

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