EQR Users’ Group Meeting

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

July 13, 2011
Reasons For EQR Redesign

• Performance and Scalability
• Modernization and Support
• Database Stability
• Service-Oriented Architecture
• Out of Software Business
Performance and Scalability

• The EQR Database is over 83 GB in size
• There are almost 1,500 EQR respondents
• In recent years, very large filings (100,000+ transactions) have been growing
• Many respondents refile their entire EQR
• In recent quarters, FERC has been receiving over 12 million lines of EQR transactions
Performance and Scalability (cont.)

- As the EQR database grows, performance has been adversely affected
  - It takes longer to unzip and upload large EQR filings
  - It takes longer to repack and re-index the EQR database after each filing is uploaded
  - It takes longer to back up the EQR database
  - There are only certain windows when EQR data can be loaded
Very Large EQR Filings

Very Large EQR Filings (100,000+ Transactions) Have Been Growing Over Time
EQR Transactions

EQR Reported Transactions Have Been Growing Over Time

Transaction Count (In Millions)
Modernization and Support

• In 2007, Microsoft announced that they would not be releasing any new versions of Visual FoxPro

• Microsoft only plans to support the Visual FoxPro core for a few more years

• Because of Microsoft’s decision, fewer and fewer IT professionals today are specialists in Visual FoxPro
Database Stability

• EQR database stability is essential for many reasons
  • To ensure that rates are on file and available for public inspection
  • To allow public utilities and power marketers to summarize their contracts
  • To allow tariff holders without effective contracts and transactions to file ID data
Database Stability (cont.)

- EQR database stability is threatened by many factors
  - The increasing size of the database
  - The increasing number of respondents
  - The increasing size of the filings
  - The increasing frequency of refilings
  - The decreasing support from Microsoft
  - The decreasing number of FoxPro IT specialists
Service-Oriented Architecture

- Shared Components are valued at FERC
  - Registering authorized filers
  - Acknowledging receipt of submissions
  - Accepting EQR filings as valid
  - Sending out reminders
  - Sending out summaries
  - Logging events
Out of Software Supplying/Support Business

- FERC is not in the software business
- IT best practices have evolved over time
- FERC does not want to assume liability for IT architecture out of FERC’s control
- Unexpected problems can arise
  - Bugs
  - System incompatibility
  - Software limitations
  - Licensing issues
  - Manufacturer business decisions