

Open-Access Same-time Information System and Standards of Conduct, Docket No. RM95-9-003

[62,472]

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Open-Access Same-time Information System and Standards of Conduct, Docket No. RM95-9-003

Order Issuing Revised OASIS Standards and Protocols Document, Granting Three-Month Extension of Time for Implementing Revised OASIS Standards and Protocols Document, and Granting Two-Month Extension of Time for Implementing the Commission's Requirements on Unmasking source and Sink Information

[62,473]

(Issued September 29, 1998)

Before Commissioners: James J. Hoecker, Chairman; Vicky A. Bailey, William L. Massey, Linda Breathitt, and Curt Hébert, Jr.

After consideration of suggested changes advanced by the OASIS How Working Group (How Group) and other interested persons, we are issuing a revised version (version 1.3) of the *OASIS Standards and Communications Protocols* document (referred to herein as the S&CP Document), consisting of revisions to version 1.2 of the S&CP Document issued by the Commission on June 18, 1998. Moreover, in response to a request from the How Group and the Commercial Practices Working Group (CPWG), we are granting a three-month extension, until March 1, 1999, for implementation of the requirements of version 1.3 and a two-month extension, also until March 1, 1999, for implementation of the Commission's requirements on the unmasking of source and sink information.

Background

In an order issued on June 18, 1998,¹ the Commission issued version 1.2 of the S&CP Document² and invited the How Group to file with the Commission a revised submittal, within 21 days of the date of issuance of the June 18 Order that, "to the greatest extent possible identifies all needed corrections to the S&CP Document."³ The June 18 Order also requested that the How Group,

reach consensus on an industry-wide uniform format, which could be easily obtained and widely used by industry participants, to cover both organizational charts and job descriptions, or at a minimum, one uniform format for organizational charts and another uniform format for job descriptions. To this end, we request that the How Group, within 90 days of the date of issuance of this order, develop an industry-wide uniform format for organizational charts and job descriptions, and submit its recommendations on this issue to the Commission. [4]

On July 15, 1998, the How Group filed a proposed version 1.3 of the S&CP Document, consisting of proposed clarifications and corrections to version 1.2 of the S&CP Document. These revisions included a proposal to add Subsection 3.4(k) to the S&CP Document that would prescribe a standard method for posting organizational charts, job descriptions, and personnel names.

On July 22, 1998, the Commission issued a notice of filing, inviting interested persons to file comments with the Commission on or before August 21, 1998.

On August 11, 1998, the How Group and the CPWG jointly filed a letter requesting: (1) a delay in the date of implementation of the OASIS Phase 1-A S&CP Document (*i.e.*, version 1.3) until March 1, 1999 (a three-month delay); (2) a delay in the implementation date for the Commission's new rules on the unmasking of source and sink information (established in the June 18 Order)⁵ until March 1, 1999 (a two-month delay); and (3) approval of the industry's Phase 1-A report on business practices, for implementation on March 1, 1999.

On August 21, 1998, Southern Company Services, Inc., (Southern)⁶ filed comments supportive of the How Group's filing. However, Southern states that a few additional minor technical revisions need to be made to the document. Southern states that

it discussed these additional proposed edits with the How Group at a How Group meeting held on July 23-24, 1998 and that, upon review, the How Group agrees with Southern that the additional technical revisions described in Southern's comments (and specified in an attachment to Southern's comments) need to be made.

Also on August 21, 1998, Enron Power Marketing, Inc. (EPMI) filed a motion to intervene raising no substantive issues.

Discussion

A. Issuance of the Revised S&CP Document (Version 1.3)

As explained in the June 18 Order,⁷ the Commission has received a series of corrections and edits to the Phase 1-A S&CP Document. In the interests of issuing a revised document as free from errors as possible, we invited the How Group to carefully review this document and to file a revised document that, to the greatest extent possible, identified all needed corrections

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to the S&CP Document. The How Group complied with this request and submitted a revised Phase 1-A S&CP Document on July 15, 1998.

However, Southern has identified three additional minor technical revisions that should be made to the document. These revisions: (1) add "START__TIME" and "STOP__TIME" to the list of data elements under the "INPUT" and "RESPONSE" portions of several specified templates;⁸ (2) add "STUDY" and "DISPLACED" as permissible "STATUS" values;⁹ and (3) add further "STATUS" values in Section 4.3.9.3.¹⁰

We have reviewed the How Group's submittal along with Southern's comments (the only substantive comments filed in response to our notice of the How Group's filing) and find that this document improves upon version 1.2 of the S&CP Document. We, therefore, adopt version 1.3 of the S&CP Document,¹¹ as modified herein.¹²

B. Implementation Date for Version 1.3 of the S&CP Document

The August 11, 1998 How Group/CPWG joint letter requested a delay in the implementation date of the OASIS Phase 1-A S&CP Document (*i.e.*, version 1.3) until March 1, 1999 (a three-month delay). In support of this request, the How Group and CPWG argue that this delay will assure that the revised S&P Document will not need to be implemented at the start of the winter peak season. The How Group and CPWG argue that, by avoiding implementation of this requirement during the winter peak season, potential adverse effects on system reliability will be avoided. They argue that fears of disruption are not hypothetical, but are based on companies' experiences in implementing OASIS Phase 1 requirements. The additional time will also allow customers and transmission providers time to complete modifications to "backend" systems to connect with OASIS servers.

We agree. A three-month delay that minimizes potential start-up problems and avoids possible disruptions to reliability is appropriate. We will therefore modify the implementation date for version 1.3 of the S&CP Document to require implementation by March 1, 1999. Our determination in this regard is without prejudice to the pending requests for rehearing, on other grounds, of the June 18, 1998 Order. By addressing this request for a delayed implementation date, we intend no judgment on the merits of those pending requests for rehearing.

C. Implementation date for New Rules on Unmasking Source and Sink Information

The August 11, 1998 How Group/CPWG joint letter requested a delay in the implementation date for the Commission's new rules on unmasking of source and sink on the OASIS until March 1, 1999 (a two-month delay). In support of this request, the How Group and CPWG argue that having the same implementation date for the Commission's new rules on unmasking of source and sink information as for the revised S&CP Document will reduce the cost of implementation and will avoid the risk that the industry simultaneously will face the requirement to comply with the Commission's new rules on unmasking source and sink information and possible Year 2000 anomalies.

We agree that a two-month delay is appropriate. We, therefore, will modify the implementation date for compliance with the Commission's new rules on unmasking source and sink information to require compliance with this requirement by March 1, 1999. Our determination in this regard is without prejudice to the pending requests for rehearing of the June 18, 1998 Order. By

addressing this request for a delayed implementation date, we intend no judgment on the merits of those pending requests for rehearing.

The Commission orders:

(A) Version 1.3 of the OASIS Phase 1-A S&CP Document (as shown on Attachment 1 to this order) is hereby adopted for use on and after March 1, 1999, as discussed in the body of this order.

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(B) The effective date for the requirements on unmasking source and sink information is hereby changed to March 1, 1999, as discussed in the body of this order.

Commissioner Bailey concurred with a separate statement attached.

Vickey A. BAILEY, Commissioner, *concurring*:

Several months ago, I dissented from the decision to require the unmasking and public posting of source and sink information on the OASIS. *See Open-Access Same-time Information System and Standards of Conduct*, 83 FERC ¶61,360 (1998), *reh'g pending*. Because today's decision to delay for two months the obligation to post source and sink information on the OASIS is better than no delay at all (though not good as a decision to delay indefinitely the posting obligation), I respectfully *concur* with today's order.

-- Footnotes --

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¹ *Open-Access Same-time Information System and Standards of Conduct*, 63 *Fed. Reg.* 38,884 (July 20, 1998) 83 FERC ¶61,360, at p. 62,466, (June 18 Order).

² 83 FERC at pp. 62,466-67.

³ 83 FERC at p. 62,452, n.13.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ 83 FERC at pp. 62,456-67.

⁶ Southern's comments are filed on behalf of Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company, Mississippi Power Company, and Savannah Electric and Power Company.

⁷ 83 FERC at p. 62,452, n.13.

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⁸ Southern explains that this revision is needed because the narrative accompanying these sections references their inclusion. Southern Comments at 2.

⁹ Southern explains that this revision is needed because Section 4.3.9.2 provides that the values for "STATUS" and the processing of "STATUS" are to be the same as in Section 4.3.7.2, which includes "STUDY" and "DISPLACED" as permissible "STATUS" values. Southern Comments at 2-3.

¹⁰ Southern explains that this revision is needed to make the "STATUS" values in this Section equivalent to those in Section 4.3.7.3. Southern Comments at 3.

¹¹ Version 1.3 of the S&CP Document, without redline and strikeout fonts, is provided in Attachment 1. Attachment 2 to this order shows all the changes that we have made and direct to version 1.2 of the S&CP Document in redline and strikeout fonts.

¹² We note that the document we are labeling as version 1.3 of the S&CP Document differs from the How Group's proposed version 1.3 of the S&CP Document. The difference between the two documents is based on our inclusion of the revisions suggested by Southern's comments and a few nonsubstantive corrections (*i.e.*, revised fonts and corrections to the table of contents).