

# DRAFT

## AUC Rule 021: Settlement System Code Transaction Working Group Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday, September 16, 2010	<b>Time</b>	10:00 to 14:00
<b>Location</b>	EPCOR Centre 10065 Jasper Ave. Edmonton AB, T5J 3B1	<b>Facilitator</b>	Raymond Lee and Paul Lindsay

**Present:**

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Raymond Lee	AUC	Melissa Gibson	EPCOR Energy
Paul Lindsay	ENMAX Power	Nicki Smith	Direct Energy
Naomi Broni	EPCOR Energy	Tina Dulguerov	Fortis Alberta
Nap Pepin	ATCO Electric	Shun Fung	EPCOR Distribution
Kathy McCollum	ATCO Gas	Steve Lai	Alta Gas

**Meeting Minutes:**

**1. Decisions Made To Date**

- For consistency purpose, all participants agreed on change the GCM kWh field from Number (8,2) to Number (12,4)
- To address the meter reads issue during customer switches retailer, the working group agreed to add the following statement to the DCM Process Rules:

*“Where no meter reading exists at the time a customer with a cumulative meter switches retailers. The MDM shall provide the next actual meter read that becomes available to all retailers that served the customer since the previous actual meter read.”*

- Proposed transaction status code grouping was adopted.
- International phone numbers are not required within the UCI

- Optional vs. Mandatory will be looked at a future date as UCI issues needed to be addressed first.
- Add two new transaction status codes for Paid Receipt Shown and Wrong De-energize Type Received
- Renamed UCI Field #98 from Foreign Address 4 to Alternate Contact Person

## **2. Deferred to SSC Working Group**

- The TWG deferred the issue of the use of the Critical to Have Power within the UCI transaction as it was felt this issue needed to be addressed by the main SSC working group. The group noted that the Critical to Have Power does not have a standard applied to it. Some retailers use the field to advise of a customer with a medical condition, other use it because their customer needs power to 'run a business'
- The TWG deferred .CSV vs. .csv as it was felt this issued needed to be addressed by the main SSC working group.

## **3. AUC Update on 2011 Rule 021 Changes**

- Raymond advised that the AUC will issue a final draft of Rule 021 changes by Oct 1 2010.
- All participants will have two weeks to provide written responses regarding the final draft
- The Final draft will then go to the commission seeking for approval. It is anticipated to have an approval done by mid- November.
- Rule 021 v2.1 would be effective January 01 2011
- No implementation date has been scheduled yet. However, with the changes to settlement timing, it is quite a lot of work. From the last round of SSC changes, it is speculated that July 01 2011 would be the implementation date. This topic will be tabled at the SSC working group meeting for discussion.

## **4. Fortis Request for Early Implementation of New Transaction Status Codes**

- Prior to the meeting FortisAlberta had sent an e-mail out to the TWG asking if anyone had issues with Fortis releasing the new transactions in November 2010
- EPCOR Retail advised that they have automated processes in place with FortisAlberta where comments in existing transactions that use failure code 0027 are used. Any changes made before the industry implementation would therefore require system changes. EPCOR Retail would not be able to make these system changes until implementation of the next version of the rule.
- The AUC stated they are not in favor of any of the TWG's recommended new changes being implemented before they are approved by the Commission. If FortisAlberta decided to existing codes to replace 027, they can do it at anytime.

- EPCOR Distribution noted that the AESO would also be impacted, making the changes in November would require the AESO to make an exemption for FortisAlberta
- The AUC asked if it is possible for FortisAlberta to delay implementation of the transaction status codes until after January 01 2011
- Alta Gas stated they would like time to test the new transactions as well as the new settlement timing. Alta Gas would prefer all changes be implemented by all participants on the same date.
- Alta Gas asked if there was any chance that the AUC would not approve the changes
- The AUC replied that it was unlikely that would happen but there is always a small chance that the Commission could deny the changes.
- ATCO Electric asked if the AUC would like each distributor to provide an action plan on when the new transactions will be implemented
- The AUC replied they did not want this done before the Commission approves the changes
- FortisAlberta asked if it was possible the Rule 021 changes could be phased in with the transaction changes implemented first and settlement timing later
- The AUC responded they would be in favor of phasing in the Rule 021 changes if all participants could manage a phased in approach. The AUC proposed March 31 2011 for TWG changes to be implemented and July 01 2011 for Settlement Timing changes

**Action Item:** All TWG participants to advise by the next TWG meeting if they can implement 2011 TWG changes on March 31 2011.

## 5. Transaction Content Review

- Group began discussion as to what the term 'Mandatory', 'Conditional' and 'Optional' mean
- ATCO Electric expressed concern that making certain fields in the UCI transaction mandatory forces retailers to provide bad data.
- EPCOR Retail concurred stating that if a customer refuses to provide a telephone number than the retailer is forced to put something in the telephone number field to meet the data requirements of the UCI. For privacy reasons, customers do not have to provide a phone number if they do not want to.
- Direct Energy wondered if it was possible to have the USA transaction modified to allow distributors to advise retailers when the distributor has an updated telephone number.
- EPCOR Retail stated that not all distributors have contact with a customer or have a customer call centre so that may not work for all distributors
- EPCOR Retail asked if the telephone numbers within the UCI could be made a conditional field. If the retailer has the telephone number they must provide it otherwise it would be left blank.
- ATCO Electric proposed that the definition of Mandatory should be: Required in transaction. Data provided must be relevant and cannot be entered to simply meet the transaction requirement
- While discussing the definition of 'Mandatory' ATCO Gas noted that UCI field #98 was listed as optional.

- ATCO Gas asked if this field could be made 'Mandatory' for the 2011 changes
- The AUC stated that since the terms mandatory, optional and conditional would not be added until 2012 changing the field to mandatory was not possible
- ENMAX Power proposed for the interim, that the field #98 description should read 'Required if Available' until the definition changes for 2012 are implemented
- The group agreed to make the interim description change to UCI sequence #98
- After further discussion the group agreed to the following definitions:
  - **Mandatory:** Required in transaction, data must valid and relevant.
  - **Conditional:** Populated according to stated production rules or specified in applicable transaction element sequence description
  - **Optional:** populated at participants discretion
- The group then began to look at the various transactions to determine which fields mandated, conditional or optional.
- The Site ID Catalog (SID) was looked at first,
- ATCO Electric asked how street light accounts should be formatted.
- ATCO Electric noted that they were considering grouping their streetlights such as 'Group 1 Grand Prairie'
- ATCO Electric asked considering the way the SID was formatted how this address could be added in any of the current addressing schemes
- The group noted that each addressing scheme currently had both optional and required data.
- The group decided for the site id catalog the following field elements were mandatory. 1 through 7, 34 and 35
- Elements 30 through 33 were optional
- The remainder were all conditional.
- The group reviewed transactions up to the SRN transaction.
- The SCU transaction was looked at. ENMAX Power was the only distributor to state they had used this transaction.
- Other distributors were not sure if they had ever used it and retailers were unsure if they had ever received the transaction. Group members agreed to check to see if they have either created or received the SCU transaction.
- A listing of transactions where mandatory, conditional and optional fields has been agreed to will be sent out shortly .

## 6. Decision made at this meeting

- Interim wording for UCI transaction element #98 to read: 'Alternate Contact, Required if Available'
- Definition of Mandatory, Conditional and Optional

## 7. Action Items:

- (i) Distributors to confirm if DIM sequences 11 through 16 are always populated
- (ii) Distributors to confirm if DCM sequence #19 is populated for unmetered sites
- (iii) Distributors to confirm if WSD sequence #20 is populated
- (iv) Distributors to confirm if the currently produce or have ever produced an SCU transaction

- (v) Retailers to confirm if they have ever received an SCU transaction
- (vi) Distributors and Retailer to advise if they can implement TWG 2011 changes on March 31 2011

**8. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, 10:00 to 14:00, October 28, 2010 at ATCO Centre (Edmonton office).

Address of the meeting is listed as follows:

*ATCO Centre*

*10035 105 ST*

*Edmonton Alberta*

- AUC will send out an agenda later