

May 15, 2008 Billing Work Group Notes

Torsten sent work group lists. Please respond with your intent to continue within the individual work groups. These lists will be used to route documents for input.

Three working documents:

1. Ameren submitted first draft of tariff. Please route comments to Pricing and Cost Recovery Work Group before next week's face-to-face meeting. ComEd working on draft and targeting completion for next week's meeting.
2. John Mittelbrun has agreed to maintain an outstanding issues list of resolved and open items. The list will include items from all working groups.
3. Review ComEd and Ameren list of assumptions and features of Bill Ready and Rate Ready UCB/POR to complete estimation of timeliness and cost.

Workshop agenda for next week:

1. Complete list of assumptions so we have all the information needed in order to get an implementation timeline from the utilities. Ameren is still working towards providing both Rate Ready & Bill Ready. ComEd – Bill Ready only.
2. Complete outstanding standards & billing discussions.
3. Review rescission process & related draft letters to customer from utility. Send comments to Consumer Protection & Communications work group before next week face-to-face meeting.
4. Review draft tariffs.
5. Anything new or still open, forward so can add to list.

Agenda items

1) **Res must send prior period charges prior to current charges.**

ComEd responded from the bill presentment perspective.

- EDI transactions will NOT be held for missed windows.
- ComEd will accept any within the billing window.
- Will utilize 867 – 810 cross referencing.
- If account has billed RES charges up to current, will issue bill as soon as they receive an 810 for the current period. Otherwise, they will hold the bill open until the end of the window. They will accept billing for any period during the window. 810 transaction doesn't have to be in order or sequential. Recognize in this scenario dates between the delivery portion and the supply portion may not match.

Ameren responded:

- they expect the transactions to come in order
- if the billing window is missed won't hold
- checking to confirm that multiple billing periods can be within same transaction file – so long as in order.

Question asked if we can standardize these procedures. ComEd and Ameren agreed to discuss off-line.

2) **Bill print sequencing numbers**

ComEd responded will order oldest transaction on top and work forward from there. IE Jan 2008 would appear first, then Feb 2008 and so on until the current period. Clarification on question, will the utility accept the EDI standard for line items within the invoice and display as sequenced within the 810 transactions. ComEd will review and follow-up.

Ameren responded will order on the bill as sequenced within the transaction.

3A) **Cancel/Re-bill when a RES has the need to cancel their bill unrelated to usage**

ComEd responded RES should send separate cancel and re-bill 810 transactions. Similar how done in PECO market (17 & 18 transactions), utility needs cancellation of dollars to reconcile.

ComEd asked what do RES's want displayed on bill print? RES's agreed want both cancel and re-bill. If the customer final with the RES, there are no more open billing windows and any additional adjustments RES will have to dual bill.

Ameren responded that this is still an open item for them and will get back to the group.

3B) **Cancel/Re-bill when related to usage correction.**

ComEd responded will cancel 867 through normal process, which opens up the next billing window for 3 days. They won't send cancel 810 back to us. RES needs to send replacement 810 with corresponding new cross reference to replacement 867 transactions.

Ameren concurs.

4) **RES 810 misses bill window**

ComEd responded will send 2 transactions (since won't be holding). Will follow PECO model 824 transaction with reject and notification to the RES that bill went out without RES charges for corresponding 810. Unsure of transaction contents but RES will know whether or not 810 charges were included on the bill produced during that bill window via 824 transactions from utility to RES.

Ameren concurs. Question about Ameren not sending 814 bill group changes will need to go on the agenda for the Standards group.

5) **Budget Billing for bill ready vs rate ready.**

ComEd response (reminded POR) will include supply dollars in their budget amount to customer and present as one total amount for payment. RES will submit actual charges and be reimbursed for same amount.

Will RES even know if customer on budget billing? Discussion of synchronization list of programs would cover issue and will be tabled for discussion later. Customers won't be taken of programs in UCB/POR scenario.

Ameren concurs.

6) **RES information on the bill.**

Ameren reviewed what was discussed at last face-to-face meeting (keeping in mind this was from a rate ready discussion) RES name, RES web address, RES toll free number and line item charge units/volume//unit price/total charges.

RES's agreed won't be putting the RES account number on bill.

Group discussed that outstanding issue is number of lines available to RES on statement. Both utilities still working on what the magic number is (between 2 & unlimited) as could affect estimate and they may have limitation with bill presentment tools. Utilities were asked if they could provide what assumptions they use in determining estimate.

Rick asked what needs to be submitted to commission regarding bill presentment and after some discussion withdrew the question. Still open item on how group determines what items become part of a tariff or a business processes, etc. Obviously, group will comply with existing Illinois choice rules.

7) **Rate Code price changes – Will the price change be effective for the entire bill period (Bills rendered on or after change) or on a specific date (service on or after change)?**

Ameren responded they currently have two methods of changing prices. BROOAC(sp?) and SOAC (sp) acronyms Ameren uses for determining the effective rate over the billing period. They preferred the BROOAC which states the rate is effective with the bill group schedule. This method will calculate and display on the statement the rate in effect at the time the account is scheduled to bill according to the meter read schedule.

The SOAC rate means effective with a calendar day regardless of bill group schedule. Rate changes in the later scenario will be displayed as a blended rate to the customer. This means that if a rate change takes effect on June 1 and the customer is billing a reading period from May 15 to June 15, the period from May 15 will calculate units at the old rate (weight average use per day based on number of days in cycle?) and then calculate units from period from June 1 to June 15 at the new rate. The dollars from the two calculations will be totaled and divided by the total units for the period to determine the blended rate and display on the bill as one line item. This confused the group (hopefully my note taking hasn't made it worse) and Ameren agreed to present a straw man diagram at the face-to-face meeting for clarification.

Ameren has determined that they will use the rate code methodology where the RES will supply (still to be determined # of rates available to RES) a rate and a corresponding rate code to the utility. RES will submit the corresponding rate codes for each customer via the 814 enrollment.

Ameren requested rate changes be submitted 5 days prior to the effective date (for changing an existing rate). Ameren will check if the same is true for changing the rate code for the customer. Also need to determine how Ameren will set up initial rates. A spreadsheet was suggested.

Question about whether utilities will be able to insert marketing material. ComEd and Ameren both have no intention of making available. They will be able to print bill messages and still need to get back to RES's on # of characters available.