

First Regional Electronic Data Interchange (FREDI)

Facts About FREDI

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2001 Planning Cycle
Version 2.0**

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What is the Background?

On January 17, 2001, representatives from seven (7) State Public Utility Commissions sponsored a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a regional working group to maintain uniform criteria for exchanging and maintaining electronic information between regulated electric distribution companies (utilities), energy suppliers, and service providers.

The state agencies involved include the:

- Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- Maryland Public Service Commission
- Delaware Public Service Commission
- Virginia State Corporation Commission
- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and
- District of Columbia Public Service Commission.

The word “state” in this document shall be based on the list above, and shall, therefore, be construed to include the District of Columbia.

The meeting was comprised of more than 125 representatives of utilities, energy suppliers, and service providers from each of the regions. The representatives reached the following consensus:

- (1) a regional coordination of EDI transactions to assure the economical and efficient transfer of data would be beneficial to all market participants, and
- (2) an organizational structure should be formed to oversee the activities.

As a result of the initial meeting, a committee was formed comprised of representatives from each of the three sectors (utilities, energy suppliers, and service providers). Their main focus was to propose a plan for the structure, mission, and goals of the new organization. On March 15, 2001, the proposed plan for the First Regional Electronic Data Interchange (FREDI) was presented to the representatives from each of the segments encompassing each of the regions. Subsequently, the groups accepted the proposal.

<p>What function does FREDI serve?</p>	<p>FREDI will assist the utilities, energy suppliers, service providers and the state agencies for the member states in an advisory capacity on electronic data interchange (EDI) matters. It will also maintain a single regional EDI document set, which contains all transactions and identifies transaction variances between states and / or utilities. Information regarding the group will be posted on a list server provided by the Edison Electric Institute (FREDI@ls.eei.org). To subscribe to the list server, an e-mail, with no text in the body of the message or in the subject line, may be sent to the following e-mail address: Join-FREDI@ls.eei.org.</p>
<p>What does to cost to join FREDI?</p>	<p>There are no entry fees or dues currently associated with FREDI.</p>
<p>Who are the members of FREDI?</p>	<p>The General Membership of FREDI will be comprised of representatives from the participating Utilities, Energy Suppliers, and Service Providers. To optimize the functionality of the group, an Advisory Committee was formed with members from each sector.</p> <p>It was determined that, while the state agencies support the FREDI effort, they will not be members of any of the FREDI committees. An open invitation exists for any of the State representatives to attend any and all FREDI meetings. The state agencies have agreed to be available on a consulting basis to FREDI.</p>
<p>Who should join FREDI?</p>	<p>Any Utility, Energy Supplier, or Service Provider participating in the deregulated electricity market is welcome to join FREDI.</p>
<p>Why join FREDI?</p>	<p>Deregulated markets work more efficiently, with the lowest entry barriers and highest consumer benefit. To accomplish this, FREDI facilitates as much uniformity as possible in implementing retail customer choice given each State's policy choices. These conditions include EDI message structures and transport mechanisms, as well as guidance for implementations of particular state policy choices. The more members in FREDI, the greater the critical mass necessary to effect such uniformity.</p> <p>The General Membership shall be on a voluntary basis. Members should be willing to commit time and resources as required. General Members must also be willing to attend at least one (1) meeting annually or host a conference and/or conference call.</p> <p>If you are interested in membership, and you meet the criteria for membership as specified above, you may join FREDI by contacting any of your sector representatives on the Advisory Committee.</p>
<p>Vision</p>	<p>FREDI will encourage, within the constraints of policy choices made by the member regulatory commissions in each of the states participating in FREDI, as much consistency and uniformity as possible for electronic data exchange.</p>
<p>Mission</p>	<p>FREDI will promote and maintain the regional EDI document set for retail customer</p>

	choice.
Strategic Direction	<p>FREDI will not attempt to directly influence policy choices made by each state. However, given those policy choices, FREDI can list the methods of implementation for each state and encourage similarity, if not uniformity, in approach. The very fact of listing policy choices and implementation methods for each policy choice may have an indirect influence on further policy choices made by each state, but such influence is not intended in any way to be active influence.</p> <p>FREDI will expand the existing EDI document set that covers the states of DE, MD, NJ and PA to cover the remaining FREDI states of DC, OH, and VA.</p> <p>FREDI will also implement a formal Change Control Process for the FREDI EDI Document.</p> <p>FREDI will then rank the remaining short and long-term objectives and any additions to develop a future work plan.</p>
Initiatives	<p>At the March 15, 2001 meeting held in Philadelphia, the plan for a regional organization was adopted. The group also developed a list of short and long-term objectives, and a starting point for the creation of the regional EDI document as listed below:</p>

<p>Short-term Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate (from the existing documents of the participating states) a regional EDI document, noting the differences by state and/or Utility. • Establish a single repository of transaction documents, data dictionaries, etc. • Establish a regional change control process. • Obtain state agency endorsement of regional approach. • Perform periodic maintenance of the document (e.g., twice a year or other mutually agreeable timeframe). • Compile each state's priorities for EDI changes – this would be a precursor to scheduling an annual planning process.
<p>Potential Long-term Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a common data transport mechanism. • Standardize a regional approach for EDI Certification Testing. • Provide a broad representation without regard to contribution of funding. • Evaluate platforms for new technologies. • Inclusion of gas standards. • One List Server – consolidation of new regional List Server and various state List Servers. • Propose process improvements to streamline transactions for efficiency. • Create overview document of how each EDI transaction is supported and provide training on EDI from a technical perspective.
<p>Initial Creation of the Regional EDI Document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual EDI transaction documents that have been developed by Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Ohio and Virginia will be consolidated into one regional EDI document set, and the differences by state and/or utility will be noted therein. Once a single repository for the EDI transactions has been established, FREDI will maintain and perform periodic maintenance of the repository. FREDI will also assist the states and market participants, as requested, in an advisory capacity on future changes to the EDI regional document set through a change control process. • The PA/NJ/DE/MD document will be used as a base. • Individuals will be assigned, by transaction type, to incorporate the other states into a given set of documents. One person may have the 814 transactions, one may have the 867 transactions, etc. • The individual(s) who upgrade the document may not necessarily be part of the 20 member Advisory Committee. • There may be a Special Projects Team to review the changes made.

