ESD Automation

The Electric Staff Division (ESD) is in the process of automating its business processes. These include:

1. The functions of the division
2. The management of the division

The functions of ESD include:

1. List of Materials
2. Specifications and the drawings in the specifications
3. Interactions with the T&D Committee
4. Load forecasting

The management of the division includes:

1. Personnel matters
2. Project management

The objective of the automation is to improve the responsiveness of ESD. As such the project will anticipate business inputs and outputs originating from borrowers, manufacturers and others.

The project has two phases. Within each phase there are two major tasks:

1. System development
2. Data input

We are currently working on system development in Phase 1.

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the project is being built with ESD resources. The system is inside the USDA firewall. It will only be available to USDA employees. However, it will simulate the inputs and outputs from borrowers, manufacturers, and others. It is being built in Microsoft Access.

The goal of Phase 1 is to produce a standalone working prototype that is useful to ESD, that can be used to demonstrate to management the value of the system and to establish the IT requirements for Phase 2 of the project.

An important part of Phase 1 will move the List of Materials to a format that will improve update and recordkeeping functions. A benefit of this change will be the identification and then removal of obsolete materials listings. It will also simulate the ability to create and retrieve inputs from external users of the list of materials.

Phase 2

Phase 2 will be developed using Electric Program resources. The system will be outside the USDA firewall. It will be accessed using USDA eAuthentication. Each user will be allowed

access according to their role in the system. This system will most likely be built using Microsoft .Net.

The goal of Phase 2 is to have a fully functioning system that is available to all those that need it. The full system, as currently envisioned, allows inputs directly from manufactures and borrowers. It will also have certain query capability to allow interested parties to determine the status of their requests

Status

One version of the system has been developed and released. It performs minor administrative functions for the division. The second version will include more administrative capability and the first part of the List of Materials functionality. This will include the list of requirements that a manufacturer must meet to submit an application for inclusion of an item on the List of Materials.