

ALIGNE PIPE OPS

Aligne Pipe Ops integrates with Aligne TRM and Gas Ops modules as a comprehensive end-to-end solution for pipeline operators, local distribution companies and storage operators..

OVERVIEW

Aligne Pipe Ops is your real-time platform for the next generation of pipeline operations providing a unique tariff and operational framework supporting real-time processing of pipeline transactions. A flexible configuration module, combined with a comprehensive reference data module facilitates straight through processing for even the most challenging business situations. A modern service-oriented-architecture offers efficiency and scalability, as well as the ability to adapt to regulatory and business change in the future.

FEATURES

ALIGNE PIPELINE SOLUTION SUITE

ALIGNE PIPELINE OPERATIONS



- Pipeline tariff capture – rates, fuels, NAESB data element usage, code values usage, validation rules
- Ability to manage transactions at hourly, daily and monthly intervals
- Support of multiple contract service types – transportation, storage, sales, OBAs, park and loan, and asset management
- Nomination screens tailored to business activity of throughput nominations, pooling, end use or other
- Automated allocations that combine customer provided PDAs with operationally designated allocation tiers into one comprehensive allocation schema
- Full audit trail of contract changes, nominations, volumes, charges, invoices
- Invoice statement generation tailored to the individual customer and customer activity
- Date effective transactions that are recorded for the life cycle of the transaction, eliminating monthly setup
- User-friendly design including saved searches and screen views, configurable screen layouts, user-de-fined favorites, and import/export via Excel and CSV from the GUI
- Full support of multiple currencies, multiple units of measure, varying pressure bases. Includes the ability to track the pipeline in one unit of measure while generating selected statements and invoices in another
- Support of multiple pipelines and multiple Aligne modules per environment – Aligne Gas Ops, TRM and Pipe Ops can exist side by side in one integrated instance

A unique tariff and operational framework supports real-time processing of pipeline transactions, delivering better customer service and business insight.

BENEFITS

- Real-time management information and intramonth cash flow forecasting
- Robust controls and full audit history for business assurance
- Configurability supports a changing regulatory and business environment
- Enables straight through processing and controls
- Modular design provides a single business platform for transportation, operations, supply, trading and risk activities
- Web access for customers to give real-time views into their activities
- Eliminates workarounds, manual invoices and manipulation of reference data by allowing accounting staff complete control of the configuration during the full invoice lifecycle, from creation to approvals and adjustments



NOMINATIONS

The Nominations screens for the Align Gas Ops system are designed to work in chorus with the Facility Dataset Configuration and Facility Configurable Rules. Once the client has set these two configurations, the Nominations process will dynamically build each nomination screen according to the model type selected on the contract and the rules for that specific pipeline and model type.

There are three Nomination screens reflecting the three NAESB nomination model types and the corresponding business uses for those models.

- The Nomination Through-Put Transportation screen utilizes the Pathed Non-Threaded nomination model with hourly profiling to support electric generation requirements.
- The Nomination Pooling screen utilizes the Non-Pathed nomination model. This is the screen that an agent or asset manager will find useful in managing and viewing their transactions.
- The Nomination Enduser screen uses the Pathed nomination model. This simple screen is quick and clear for an end user to manage the supply to their contract.

ALLOCATIONS

The Align Allocations process comprehensively supports customer and pipeline allocation rule sets, single and multi-tiered allocations, and all of the NAESB allocation types. Therefore, the system supports customer-provided (Operator, Third Party or Shipper) Pre-Determined Allocations and marries them with the allocation rule sets that are established for the individual or grouped points in the system. Allocations are performed automatically when a measured volume changes on the system, providing ready access to allocated quantities at any time in the business cycle. Inventory, imbalances and charges are always current based on best available volumes and visible to management and customers.

BALANCING AND INVENTORY

One of the strongest tools available in the Align toolkit, Inventory Management couples the balancing activities of pooling, storage, and imbalance management into one set of processes that maintain a cumulative balance, manage adjustments and assess value in support of cash out, imbalance trading, penalties and weighted average cost of gas (WACOG) calculations. Inventory is tracked by production month and accounting month, supporting a robust prior period adjustment (PPA) model throughout Align. The system provides internal views, web views and numerous reports to look at the data from the perspective of the business activity being conducted



ACCOUNTING

The Aligne Global Back Office (GBO) standardizes processes and controls, enabling back office staff to increase productivity, reduce errors, and improve decision-making in several key areas. Flexible invoice setup allows customization of invoice formats and timing, the level of detail to be displayed, and the ability to show transportation charges, non-transportation charges, prior period adjustments, taxes, cash outs, penalties and credits all together in one invoice. These invoices are available to shippers via the web. Controls are enforced through invoice lifecycle management, featuring a configurable approval process, limits and designations. SO_x compliance is ensured through strict security control and audit on transactions with enforcement of separation of duties. A configurable, rules-driven ERP interface facilitates seamless interaction with ERP systems. For further information please consult the Aligne Global Back Office datasheet.

CONFIGURATION

The Aligne Pipe Ops is designed to support a combination of interstate, intrastate, gathering and LDC within one instance of the system. With that in mind, SunGard recognizes that the business rules for these different types of pipelines will vary with their business scenarios, the operational makeup of the pipeline, and with the regulatory bodies that govern those entities. Comprehensive tariff capture gives a custom tailoring to the system to fit the regulatory requirements of the pipeline. A complete operational definition allows the operational parameters of the pipeline system to be identified to include point and meter characteristics, zones, point groups, segments and constraints. From the moment a nomination is entered into the system until the final bill is actualized, the pipeline operator can view the balance of any account on the system and can view the estimated charges associated with that account. Therefore, pipeline operations specific requirements are configured at the individual pipeline level in three different ways:

- Facility Set Up – Identifies system defaults such as unit of measure, monthly/daily/hourly operations, and business cycles.
- Facility Validation – Associates rule sets with the pipeline that turn on or turn off validation options in the system for a variety of business activities including Nominations, Allocations, Confirmations, etc.
- Facility Dataset Configuration – Configures the dataset that the external shipper and internal user will utilize in the system, giving full control over mandatory and optional data elements and dynamically adjusting the nomination screen accordingly.

SunGard Energy and Commodities

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