

NAESB Bulletin

November 2017 - February 2018 Volume 10, Issue 3

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2018 Calendar:

March

- 3/6 - Joint WEQ OASIS and WEQ BPS Conf. Call
- 3/14 - Board Strategic Plan Task Force Conf. Call
- 3/14 - Board Revenue Committee Conf. Call
- 3/16 - Board Structure Review Committee Conf. Call
- 3/27-28 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Charlotte, NC)
- 3/29 - Joint WEQ OASIS and WEQ BPS Meeting (Charlotte, NC)
- 3/30 - Holiday - Good Friday (NAESB Closed)

April

- 4/4 - Leadership Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/4 - NAESB Board Reception & Dinner with Guest Speaker
- 4/5 - NAESB Board of Directors Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/12 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 4/18 - Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Web Cast Course
- 4/18 - NAESB Monthly Update Conf. Call
- 4/24 - WEQ Executive Committee Meeting (Little Rock, AR)
- 4/25 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Little Rock, AR)
- 4/25 - RMQ Executive Committee Meeting (Little Rock, AR)
- 4/26 - Joint WEQ OASIS and WEQ BPS Meeting (Little Rock, AR)
- 4/26 - WGQ Executive Committee Meeting (Little Rock, AR)

May

- 5/10 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 5/22-24 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Langley, BC)
- 5/28 - Holiday - Memorial Day (NAESB Closed)

June

- 6/14 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 6/19-21 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Portland, OR)
- 6/20 - NAESB Update Conf. Call

July

- 7/4 - Holiday - 4th of July (NAESB Closed)
- 7/5 - Holiday - Day after 4th of July (NAESB Closed)
- 7/12 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 7/17-19 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Carmel, IN)

Advisory Council Update: As it has in the past, the February 10, 2018 Advisory Council meeting, chaired by Bruce Ellsworth, successfully brought together luminaries from the natural gas and power markets and gave NAESB an opportunity to benefit from their insights on the most relevant topics in the energy industry today. During the meeting, the discussion touched upon several prominent projects underway at NAESB, including Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB), Green Button, standards development in support of the Mexican markets, and cybersecurity. Additionally, the council heard updates on liaison activities with external entities, such as Sandia National Laboratories, the Department of Energy (DoE), the Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE), and the United Nations (UN).

Looking ahead, the Advisory Council discussed potential standards development efforts that the board may consider placing on the NAESB annual plans, including blockchain technology, additional cybersecurity topics, and actions to bolster the Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ) membership levels. The committee also discussed the National Academy of Sciences Report, *Enhancing the Resilience of the Nation's Electricity System*. Contained in the report is a recommendation that NAESB work with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) and industry stakeholders to improve awareness, communication, coordination, and planning between the natural gas and electric industries in an effort to mitigate potential impacts resulting from one market's infrastructure failure on the other market.

For more information, please go to [Advisory Council Members](#), [February 10, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting Announcement and Agenda](#) and [National Academy of Sciences Report: Enhancing the Resilience of the Nation's Electricity System](#).



Sandia National Laboratories: On February 26, 2018, the Board Critical Infrastructure Committee (CIC), chaired by Cade Burks and Dave Darnell, held a conference call to receive feedback from committee participants on the draft Sandia National Laboratories surety assessment (Surety Assessment) report. Sponsored by the DoE, the Surety Assessment will provide findings and recommendations resulting from an analysis of the cybersecurity elements of the NAESB Business Practice Standards and Model Business Practices. Further, the Surety Assessment will examine how those elements may have an impact on the dependencies between the gas and electric standards.

The scope of the Surety Assessment covers the Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) and RMQ Internet Electronic Transport (IET) and Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) Business Practice Standards, as well as the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) OASIS Standards. Additionally, the scope will include the NAESB Certification Program for Accredited Certification Authorities – which, is comprised of the WEQ 012 Public Key Infrastructure Standards, the Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities, and the Authorized Certification Authority Process. In December, the board approved a provisional item to be added to the annual plan of each quadrant that calls for the development of any needed standards in response to the Surety Assessment.

During the April 6, 2017 board meeting, Michael Desselle, Chair of the Board of Directors, reconvened the Board CIC to oversee the activities regarding the Surety Assessment. The Board CIC held its initial kick off meeting last May, during which the committee adopted a revised mission statement. A subsequent Board CIC meeting held in December focused on a review of the Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Tasking Document. As are all NAESB meetings, the next Board CIC conference call will be open to all interested parties.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2018 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2018 WGQ Annual Plan](#), [February 26, 2018 Board CIC Agenda](#), [December 4, 2017 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [May 16, 2017 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [Draft Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Report](#), [Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Tasking Document](#), [December 14, 2017 Board of Directors Agenda](#) and [April 6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#).

Click on any underlined text and you can access more detailed reports.

WEQ Publication: On December 8, 2017, NAESB published Version 003.2 of the WEQ Business Practice Standards and submitted a filing to FERC containing the new and revised standards in Docket No. RM05-5-000. The modifications in the Version 003.2 publication reflect fifteen separate action items – 9 of which are final actions and 6 that are minor corrections. Of the changes, there are new items (2 abbreviations/acronyms, 7 definitions, 192 standards); revised items (1 abbreviation/acronym, 14 definitions, 221 standards, 9 appendices); and deleted items (1 abbreviation/acronym, 7 definitions, 76 standards, 4 appendices). Version 003.2 of the WEQ standards incorporates annual plan and request items from October 1, 2015 through December 8, 2017.

As you may know, Version 003.1 was published on September 30, 2015 and filed with the Commission on October 26, 2015. Although Version 003.1 was proposed for adoption in the July 21, 2016 FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) in Docket RM05-5-025, a final order on that NOPR has not been issued. Many thanks go to all members and participants who provided their expertise as these standards were developed.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan, Version 003.2 WEQ Business Practice Standards \(Zip File\), December 8, 2017 NAESB Report to FERC on Version 003.2 WEQ Business Practice Standards, WEQ Version 003.2 Publication Schedule, Version 003.1 WEQ Business Practice Standards \(Zip File\), October 26, 2015 NAESB Report to FERC on Version 003.1 WEQ Business Practice Standards](#) and [July 21, 2016 FERC NOPR on Version 003.1 WEQ Business Practice Standards](#).

Support of the Mexican Markets: During the February 10, 2018 meeting, the Advisory Council encouraged NAESB to further develop its relationship with Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE) in the electric industry. CENACE, the entity recently given new regulatory powers, introduced by the Mexican energy reform to manage the wholesale electricity market and power grid. NAESB staff looks forward to an ongoing relationship with the organization.

On February 22, 2018, a Minor Correction, MC18001, was approved by the WGQ Executive Committee via a notational ballot that was distributed on February 8, 2018. The minor correction proposed to add missing language to the Mexican Addendum for the NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas (Mexican Addendum). During a review of the Mexican Addendum, it was noted that, in Section 6.3, part of the last sentence was omitted. The missing language was previously included in the redlined version of the late formal comments that were submitted by the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee and approved by the WGQ Executive Committee on October 26, 2017. However, the language was omitted from the clean version of that document. Pursuant to the NAESB procedures for adopting minor corrections, the public comment period for MC18001 began on February 23, 2018 and concluded on

March 8, 2018. As no comments were received during the comment period, the corrections will be applied to the NAESB WGQ Business Practice Standards on March 26, 2018.

Motivated by the requests of several entities, NAESB has attained verbatim Spanish translations of several of its WGQ Contracts, including the NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, the Master Agreement for the Purchase Sale and Exchange of Liquid Hydrocarbons, and the Canadian Addendum. NAESB and Mexico’s Comisión Reguladora de Energía (CRE) continue to maintain a dialogue regarding how NAESB can be supportive of the Mexican markets.

For more information, please go to [2018 WGQ Annual Plan, NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, Mexican Addendum as Ratified on November 27, 2017, October 26, 2017 WGQ Executive Committee Draft Meeting Notes, Ratification Tally for the Mexican Addendum, MC18001, Notational Ballot for MC18001, Notational Ballot Results, NAESB Order Form, Spanish Translation of the WGO 6.3.1 - NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, Spanish Translation of the WGO 6.3.1.CA - Canadian Addendum](#) and [Spanish Translation of the WGO 6.5.3 - NAESB WGQ Model Credit Support Addendum](#).

Non-member Access/Participation: For our participants who are non-members, from the NAESB Home Page you can access one of the four quadrant squares – wholesale electric, retail electric, wholesale gas and retail gas, you are directed to the “[NAESB Non-member Access: NAESB Committees, Subcommittees and Task Forces](#)” web page. *For more information, please go to [NAESB Current Committee Activities](#) or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) for additional information.*

Filings: As stated in previous communications, on December 8, 2017, NAESB published Version 003.2 of the WEQ Business Practice Standards and filed a detailed report with the Commission. The new version includes the Short-Term Firm Preemption and Competition Standards, along with the new OASIS mechanism, Consolidations, that allow for the merger of like reservations without the use of the resale mechanism. Modifications to WEQ 004, the EIR Business Practice Standards, e-Tag Specification, and e-Tag schema were added to the publication to recognize the Market Operator role within the EIR. Among other WEQ priorities, the retirement of the NAESB WEQ 006 Business Practice Standards to complement the retirement of the NERC BAL-004 Reliability Standards are also included in the publication. The Version 003.2 publication of the WEQ Business Practice Standards is now available on the NAESB website for members and for nonmember purchase.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan, 2018 RMO Annual Plan, 2018 WGQ Annual Plan](#) and [Enhancing the Resilience of the Nation’s Electricity System](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Demand-Side Management and Energy Efficiency (DSM-EE) Update: Last November, two recommendations developed by the WEQ/RMQ DSM-EE Subcommittee were ratified within the WEQ and RMQ, respectively, that modified the existing NAESB DSM-EE standards. Approved by the WEQ Executive Committee on October 24, 2017 and the RMQ Executive Committee on November 1, 2017, the parallel recommendations modified WEQ 015, WEQ 018, and WEQ 020 and RMQ.20. No formal comments were submitted during the thirty-day industry comment periods that concluded on October 2, 2017.

The effort was initiated by Request R16010 asking NAESB to review the standards in light of the transition of the NERC Transmission System Information Networks (TSIN) to the NAESB Electronic Industry Registry (EIR), changes in the NERC committee structures, and changes to the NERC Rules of Procedure. As the standards request impacted many different sets of standards, the NAESB Triage Subcommittee tasked the WEQ SRS with the distribution of assignments to the various WEQ subcommittees. The WEQ SRS assigned 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.v to the WEQ/RMQ DSM-EE Subcommittee. In parallel, R17004 was submitted to develop any consistent modifications to the RMQ Model Business Practices in response to the aforementioned modifications (2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.v) to the WEQ Business Practice Standards.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2018 RMO Annual Plan](#), [R16010](#), [October 21, 2016 NAESB Triage Subcommittee Disposition](#), [May 18, 2017 WEQ SRS Final Minutes](#), [WEQ SRS Assignment Document](#), [October 24, 2017 WEQ Executive Committee Draft Meeting Minutes](#), [Recommendation to Support 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.iv as Ratified on November 28, 2017](#), [WEQ Ratification Ballot](#), [WEQ Ratification Tally](#), [R17004](#), [October 25, 2017 RMO Executive Committee Draft Meeting Minutes](#), [Recommendation to Support R17004 as Ratified on November 27, 2017](#), [RMO Ratification Ballot](#) and [RMO Ratification Tally](#).

Parallel Flow Visualization-Transmission Loading Relief (PFV-TLR): NAESB staff continues to coordinate with NERC and the Eastern Interconnection Data Sharing Network (EIDSN) on the Parallel Flow Visualization (PFV) project. In the coming months, NAESB will file a status report to update the Commission on the timeline and any project developments. As with past PFV status reports to FERC, NAESB staff will coordinate with NERC and the EIDSN to draft the filing. Also, the EIDSN will soon start producing reports regarding the PFV field trial. Last October, NAESB filed a status report with the Commission announcing the September 2017 start date of the PFV field trial and noting that the trial is anticipated to run for a duration of eighteen-months.

Upon conclusion of the field trial, the Interchange Distribution Calculator Working Group (IDC WG) will provide a report detailing the outcome of the commercial metrics of the project. Utilizing the results from the IDC WG report, the WEQ BPS will determine whether any changes should be made to the NAESB standards, and the WEQ Executive Committee will consider the resulting recommendation developed by the WEQ BPS. Until the conclusion of the PFV field trial, the standards that were approved by the Executive Committee in 2015 will continue to be held in abeyance.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [October 2, 2017 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [October 17, 2016 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [January 29, 2016 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [March 25, 2015 NAESB PFV Report to FERC](#), [January 28, 2015 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [July 11, 2014 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [Recommendation approved by the NAESB WEQ Executive Committee on February 24, 2015 to initiate the full staffing process \(Redline\)](#) and [February 24, 2015 WEQ Executive Committee Meeting Notes](#).

NAESB
Certification Program
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Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms (eForms): Now in a holding pattern, the WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee is awaiting the completion of Form 1 XML working documents by FERC technical staff to begin its work on 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 5 and 2018 WGQ Annual Plan Item 3. This effort is being undertaken in response to the April 2015, FERC *Order Instituting Proceeding to Develop Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms* issued by the Commission in Docket No. AD15-11-000. In the order, the Commission proposed a transition from Microsoft Visual FoxPro to the XML file format for the submission of several FERC Forms. Additionally, after remarking on the industry's previous success on the development of the electronic tariff (eTariff) filings through NAESB, the Commission proposed that the industry once again work through NAESB to develop the documentation for the new format of FERC Forms. After the completion of the Form 1 XML documents, the subcommittee anticipates that much of that initial work can be duplicated to expedite the development of the remaining forms, including the development of a data dictionary and any related business practice standards. The next WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee meeting will be announced by the NAESB office.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2018 WGQ Annual Plan](#), [April 16, 2015 FERC Order Instituting Proceeding to Develop Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms](#), [May 1, 2015 Notice of Conference with NAESB](#), [May 29, 2015 Supplemental Notice of Conference with NAESB](#), [June 10, 2015 Technical Conference Transcript](#) and [July 16, 2015 FERC Notice of NAESB Meeting](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT *(continued)*

Cybersecurity: During its February meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee approved a recommendation developed by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee (CSS) in response to 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a. That annual plan item tasked the WEQ CSS with its annual review of WEQ 012 and the accreditation requirements for the Authorized Certification Authorities to determine whether any changes are needed to meet market conditions. New mappings for the identity proofing process methods were proposed in the resulting recommendation along with the deletion of a requirement that the subcommittee determined was duplicative. One set of comments in support of the recommendation were submitted from the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee during the thirty-day formal comment period that concluded in mid-November. As the modifications in the recommendation for 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a only applied to the specification document rather than a standard, the modifications will not be posted for ratification.

The Version 003.2 publication of the WEQ Business Practice Standards was revised on December 8, 2017 to include the modifications in Minor Correction MC17020. In response to the WEQ CSS review for 2017 WEQ Annual Plan 4.a, MC17020 was submitted in mid-October and approved during the subsequent October WEQ Executive Committee meeting. MC17020 expands the definition of “Applicant” in WEQ 000-2 to clarify that any individual may apply for a digital certificate that can be used to access the NAESB EIR. Pursuant to NAESB’s procedures for adopting minor corrections, the public comment period for MC17020 began on November 20, 2017 and concluded on December 4, 2017. As stated, the corrections were applied to NAESB WEQ Version 003.2 in early December after no industry comments were received.

As expanded on in the NAESB and NERC Coordination section above, NAESB will continue to monitor two FERC NOPRs involving cybersecurity – the January 18, 2018 NOPR, *Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards*, and the December 21, 2017 NOPR, *Cyber Security Incident Reporting Reliability Standards*. These NOPRs will be monitored during coordination calls between NERC and NAESB and by the WEQ CSS participants.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [February 20, 2018 WEQ Executive Committee Agenda](#), [Recommendation for 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a as Approved by the WEQ Executive Committee on February 20, 2018](#), [Attachment to Recommendation](#), [Request for Comments](#), [Late Comments Submitted by the WEQ SRS](#), [Minor Correction MC17020](#), [MC17020 as Approved by the WEQ Executive Committee on October 24, 2017](#), [October 24, 2017 WEQ Executive Committee Draft Minutes](#), [Request for Comments](#), [Version 003.2 WEQ Business Practice Standards \(Zip File\)](#), [December 8, 2017 NAESB Report to FERC on Version 003.2 WEQ Business Practice Standards](#), [WEQ Version 003.2 Publication Schedule](#), [January 18, 2018 FERC NOPR](#) and [December 21, 2017 FERC NOPR](#).



NAESB and NERC Continuing Coordination: In order to ensure that NAESB and NERC remain coordinated on industry goals, monthly coordination calls and day-to-day communications between the two organizations continue and are focused on a wide-range of topics. Most recently, NAESB and NERC staff have been focused on the PFV effort, NERC Project 2017-04 INT Periodic Review, and recent cybersecurity activities. As detailed in the PFV section of this bulletin, the PFV field trial began in September of 2017 and is expected to last for a duration of eighteen months. This is coordinated between the NAESB Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) and the NERC Operating Reliability Subcommittee (ORS), responsible for supporting the field trial of the standards.

NAESB is also monitoring developments within the NERC Project 2017-04 Periodic Review of Interchange Scheduling and Coordination Standards. The purpose of the project is to conduct a periodic review of a subset of the Interchange (INT) Reliability Standards – INT-004, INT-006, INT-009, INT-010. Although the project is in its beginning stages, NAESB staff and the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee will continue to keep any developments on the subcommittee radar to ensure harmonization. Also, in late-February or early May, NERC will be undertaking an efficiency review of the entire catalogue of its reliability standards. The purpose of the review is to determine whether there are potential modifications and/or retirements that will improve the efficiency of the standards. NAESB staff will continue to remain in close contact with NERC staff throughout the review process.

Additionally, NAESB is monitoring activities within NERC related to two FERC NOPRs. First, on January 18, 2018 FERC issued a NOPR proposing to adopt the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards. NERC developed the standards under NERC Project 2016-03 Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Management. The WEQ CSS reviewed the standards last year and will continue to monitor any NERC activities resulting from a final order on the NOPR.

Second, FERC issued the NOPR, *Cyber Security Incident Reporting Reliability Standards*, on December 21, 2017. The NOPR proposes to direct NERC to develop and submit modifications to the NERC Reliability Standards to improve mandatory reporting of Cyber Security incidents, including incidents that might facilitate subsequent efforts to harm the reliable operation of the bulk electric system. NAESB will monitor any NERC developments related to this NOPR for potential impact on the NAESB WEQ standards.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [October 2, 2017 NAESB PFV Report to FERC](#), [December 21, 2017 FERC NOPR](#) and [December 21, 2017 FERC NOPR](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT *(continued)*

WEQ Open Access Same-time Information Systems (OASIS) Subcommittee: At the end of November, NAESB ratified the Short-Term Preemption and Competition recommendation developed by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee. Standards development efforts on the recommendation were initiated in January 2012 and lasted for over 98 meetings with a total of more than 176 days. The recommendation modifies a substantial bulk of the NAESB WEQ Business Practice Standards, including: WEQ 000 Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Definition of Terms; WEQ 001 OASIS, Version 2.1; WEQ 002 OASIS Standards and Communication Protocols (S&CP), Version 2.1; WEQ 003 OASIS Data Dictionary, Version 2.1; and WEQ 013 OASIS Implementation Guide, Version 2.1. Unanimously voted out of the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee in June, the recommendation was posted for a 45-day formal comment period that concluded in early August. Over 400 individual comments were reviewed by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee, resulting in the revised version of the recommendation that was adopted by the WEQ Executive Committee during its October meeting.

Also, ratified on November 28, 2017, the recommendation for 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.iii was developed in response to Standards Request R16010. Under R16010, described in the DMS-EE sections above, the WEQ SRS tasked the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee with 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.iii. Three comments were submitted during the thirty-day comment period on the recommendation that was held from July 21, 2017 to August 21, 2017. Those comments were received from the ISO/RTO Council's Standards Review Committee, from the WEQ OASIS, and the WEQ OASIS comments in response to the ISO/RTO Council's Standards Review Committee Comments.

During its February meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee approved two no action recommendations jointly developed by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee and the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS). The no action recommendations were developed in response to: (1) 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.a/R05026 which asked the subcommittees to enhance the transmission service reservation result postings to show available generation redispatch options that would allow acceptance of reservation request; and (2) 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.b/R05026 – Limiting transmission elements for denied transmission service requests. At the end of November, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee and the WEQ BPS voted out the no action recommendations after determining that 18 CFR 37.6(b)(2)iii addresses both annual plan items. One comment in support of the recommendations was submitted by the WEQ SRS during the thirty-day industry comment period that concluded in early January.

During its April meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee, will consider a recommendation developed by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee in response Paragraph 1139 of FERC Order No. 890. The recommendation, developed under 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 2.a.i.2, addresses the directive that Transmission Providers modify their OASIS to allow for the posting of third party offers to supply planning redispatch services. The recommendation establishes two new OASIS Templates in order to support the optional posting of third party offers of planning redispatch services. The thirty-day formal industry comment period on the recommendation concluded on February 26, 2018. All commenters are encouraged to attend the discussion during the April WEQ Executive Committee meeting.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [FERC Order No. 890](#), [FERC Order No. 890-A](#), [FERC Order No. 890-B](#), [R05019](#), [R09003](#), [Recommendation for 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item Nos. 2.a.i.1/R05019 and 5.a/R09003 as Ratified on November 28, 2017](#), [Request for Informal Comments, June 20-22, 2017 WEQ OASIS Final Minutes](#), [Request for Comments Due August 4, 2017](#), [Comments Submitted by R. Kelley, Bonneville Power Administration](#), [Addendum to Comments Submitted by R. Kelley, Bonneville Power Administration](#), [Comments Submitted by J. Lemire, NCEMC](#), [Comments Submitted by C. Bigelow, Arizona Public Service Company](#), [Comments Submitted by P. Sorenson, OATI](#), [Comments Submitted by A. Pritchard, Duke Energy](#), [Redline Recommendation Comments Submitted by A. Pritchard, Duke Energy](#), [Comments Submitted by JT Wood, Southern Company](#), [Comments Submitted by R. Brown, PJM](#), [Comments Submitted by the ISO/RTO Council's Standards Review Committee](#), [Ratification Ballot for 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item Nos. 2.a.1/R05019 and 5.a/R09003](#), [Ratification Tally for 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item Nos. 2.a.1/R05019 and 5.a/R09003, R16010](#), [Request for Comments on 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.iii/R16010](#), [Comments Submitted by the ISO/RTO Council's Standards Review Committee](#), [Late Comments Submitted by the WEQ OASIS](#), [Late Comments Submitted by the WEQ OASIS in Response to the ISO/RTO Council's Standards Review Committee Comments](#), [Recommendation on 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.iii/R16010 as Ratified on November 28, 2017](#), [WEQ SRS Assignment Document](#), [Ratification Ballot for 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.e.iii/R16010](#), [Ratification Tally, February 20, 2018 WEQ Executive Committee Agenda](#), [R05026](#), [No Action Recommendation for 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.a/R05026](#), [No Action Recommendation for 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.b/R05026](#), [November 30, 2017 Joint WEQ OASIS and WEQ BPS Final Meeting Minutes](#), [Request for Comments on 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Items 3.a and 3.b/R05026](#) and [Late Comments Submitted by the WEQ SRS in response to 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Items 3.a and 3.b/R05026](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Green Button and OpenFMB Update: This January, NAESB submitted electronic comments in response to the Ontario Ministry of Energy’s November 29, 2017 *Regulatory Proposal for Province-Wide Implementation of Green Button*. If adopted, the proposed regulation would make it a requirement for Ontarian electric and natural gas utilities to implement Green Button Download My Data and Connect My Data consistent with the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices. In the comments, NAESB described pending updates to be applied to the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices in early 2018. The updates will incorporate the derivative work document, ESPI Derived, that has been developed outside of NAESB to assist various implementations.

Serving as the critical foundation for the Green Button, the ESPI Model Business Practices provide an industry-standard XML format and a data exchange protocol for the exchange of a retail customer’s energy usage information between their designated data custodian and an authorized third-party service provider. Launched in 2012, the Green Button Initiative is a response to the White House call to action that challenged utilities to provide their customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage data via a “Green Button” on their websites. Since the start of the Green Button Initiative in the United States, over 150 utilities and service providers have committed to providing more than 60 million US households with access to Green Button data. In Ontario, more than half of the consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses, now have access to their Green Button data.

Recently, NAESB and the GBA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to outline the expectations that the two organizations will share regarding the ESPI Model Business Practices, the Green Button Certified Download My Data, Connect My Data, and future GBA certification programs. The GBA supports the development, compliance, and wide-spread adoption of the Green Button standard. As part of the MOU, in exchange for providing free access to the XML Schema, the GBA will provide its resources to assist in the updates of ESPI and will require valid, legal access to the ESPI Model Business Practices as a condition of certification within any Green Button related certification programs. Ontario recently acknowledged its commitment to expanding the Green Button in *Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan 2017: Delivering Fairness and Choice*.

In other news, the OpenFMB Task Force will soon hold its first meeting of the year to review the RMQ.26 – OpenFMB Model Business Practices. Under the 2018 RMQ Annual Plan Item 4 and Standards Request R14008, the task force will begin its work by developing security model business practices and discussing possible additional use cases to incorporate into the model business practices. As you may remember, OpenFMB was ratified by the NAESB membership in March of 2016 and was subsequently published in Version 3.1 of the NAESB RMQ publication that same month. Since the publication of RMQ Version 3.1, several additional OpenFMB use cases have been considered to address DER Circuit Segment

Management, Circuit Segment Optimization, Microgrid Un-scheduled Islanding, and Microgrid Reconnection.

As part of the OpenFMB effort, NAESB staff has held numerous conference calls with the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) to discuss each organization’s OpenFMB efforts. The discussions focus on the potential of an OpenFMB certification program, user group activities, and website management, among other topics.

For more information, please go to [2018 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices](#), [Green Button Alliance Page](#), [Achieving Balance Ontario’s 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan](#), [Ontario’s Five Year Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020](#), [Green Button Page](#) and [RMQ.26 – Open Field Message Bus \(OpenFMB\) Model Business Practices](#).

Copyright/NAESB Standards Access: As everyone should be aware, NAESB copyrights its work products – a practice used by most standards organizations. The copyrights are considered a subset of intellectual property law, and NAESB retains the rights to publication, reproduction, display and distribution. NAESB members may obtain materials free of charge as part of their benefits, but these benefits do not extend to their agents, affiliates or subsidiaries without prior approval and waivers from the NAESB office. Damages for copyright infringement can be significant, including penalties of \$100,000+, injunction, impounding of materials, seizure of property, and award of punitive damages. At the same time, NAESB is very liberal in its policies towards sharing information and has granted waivers to regulators and educational institutions depending on the intended use. There is also a process by which anyone can request a three-day waiver to review the work products, as they consider whether they should purchase them. Waivers for longer periods can also be granted depending on use. NAESB’s control of copyrighted material provides a small revenue stream which offsets some of its standards development expenses and thus those of its members in the creation of the work products. More importantly, as entities must come to NAESB for its standards material, it assures that they will have access to the most current version.

For more information, please go to [Copyright, NAESB Materials Order Form](#) or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) for additional information.

NAESB Quadrant Membership Analysis:

Wholesale Gas Quadrant	123
Retail Markets Quadrant	41
Wholesale Electric Quadrant	134
Total Membership	298 Members

NAESB New Members

Retail Markets Quadrant (Segment):

Ontario Ministry of Energy
(Retail Electric End Users/Public Agencies)

Wholesale Gas Quadrant (Segment):

Spire Inc. (LDC)

Update on the Electric Industry Registry (EIR) and e-Tagging Specification: On February 15, 2018, NAESB announced the release of several updates applied to the NAESB EIR. In order to provide an indication of whether a publication is active or pending, modifications were made to the email notifications for publications. Additionally, alterations to data validations and enhancements, such as those to improve query optimization, were also added.

In mid-January, the EIR Enhancement Request ER16001 was withdrawn. Submitted by Gridforce Energy Management in June of 2016, ER16001 proposed changes to the registration of pseudo-ties in the EIR. The revised ACE Diversity Interchange (ADI) Process Reliability Guidelines approved by the NERC Operating Committee at the end of last year addressed the concerns that drove the submission of ER16001 and led to the withdrawal of the enhancement request.

As you know, the NAESB-managed EIR serves as the central repository for information utilized by the electric industry. In 2012, the NAESB EIR replaced the NERC Transmission System Information Networks (TSIN) as the industry registry tool. OATI serves as the NAESB chosen system administrator for the EIR and manages the tool as OATI webRegistry.

Last November, Version 1.8.2 of the Electronic Tagging (e-Tag) Functional Specification was replaced with the successful implementation of Version 1.8.3. As part of the transition, the two versions ran in parallel from October 10, 2017 to November 7, 2017. The modifications in Version 1.8.3 support the full use of the Market Operator role in the EIR.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [February 15, 2018 EIR Announcement](#), [October 19, 2017 EIR Market Operator Legacy Functionality Retirement Announcement](#), [September 22, 2017 EIR Updates Announcement](#), [August 1, 2017 EIR Updates Announcement](#), [EIR Page](#), [WEQ EIR Enhancement Requests Page](#), [ER16001](#) and [NAESB WEQ Electronic Tagging Functional Specification, Version 1.8.3 \(as approved by the WEQ Executive Committee\)](#).

NAESB Webcast Courses: On April 18, 2018, NAESB will offer a webcast course, *Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts*. The course is designed to review the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas (WGQ Standard No. 6.3.1) and provide the attendees with a detailed understanding of the components of the contract and supporting Canadian and Mexican Addendums. The agenda for the web course will include the Trading Partner Agreement (Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Overview, Provisions, and Exhibit) as well as, a brief overview of each of the other six WGQ contracts.

Additionally, dependent upon events within the industry, the *NAESB WEQ Business Practices Standards Webcast Course* and the *NAESB WGQ Business Practice Standards Webcast Course* may also be offered in 2018. *For more information, please go to [NAESB Primers and Training Courses Page](#).*

NAESB Board Committees Update: Held at the Marriot Marquis in Houston, Texas, the first Board of Director's meeting of the year is scheduled for April 5, 2018. This time, the Board Leadership meetings taking place on April 4, 2018 will be combined into one meeting – scheduled from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM Central. As part of the agenda for the April 4 and 5 meetings, the board will discuss the activities of all of the board committee activities.

As noted above, on February 26, 2018, the Board Critical Infrastructure Committee held a conference call to gather feedback on the structure and content of the draft version of the Sandia National Laboratories surety assessment report. The draft report is a precursor to the final report which is expected within the coming months.

On March 14, 2018, the Board Strategic Plan Task Force met to continue discussion regarding the 2018 NAESB Standards Development Survey. The strawman of the survey is expected to be completed in April and distributed over the summer. Similar to the results of last year's survey, the 2018 survey responses will be used by the Board Strategic Plan Task Force to evaluate and prepare a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

The Board Revenue Committee also held a conference call on March 14, 2018 to review the revenue reports and communication activities, and to discuss outreach to the RMQ markets. Additional agenda items included a review of the vacant seats on the Board of Directors and Executive Committees, the membership prospect list, and the membership and copyright reports, among other items.

On March 16, 2018, the Board Retail Structure Review Committee met to discuss the efforts to increase RMQ membership levels. As you may know, Section 2.3 of the NAESB Bylaws states, “[i]n order to have representation on the Board or the EC, a Quadrant shall have at least forty Voting Members and at least four Segments.” At the time of this writing, the RMQ has exactly forty-one members. The Board RSRC will hold a follow up meeting to continue the discussion. As always, the Board RSRC call is open to all interested parties.

For more information, please go to [2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2018 RMO Annual Plan](#), [2018 WGO Annual Plan](#), [February 26, 2018 Board CIC Agenda](#), [December 4, 2017 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [May 16, 2017 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [Draft Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Report](#), [Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Tasking Document](#), [NAESB Operating Practices](#), [NAESB Bylaws](#) and [NAESB Certificate of Incorporation](#).