

NAESB Bulletin

November 2018 - February 2019 Volume 11, Issue 3

[2018 Retail Annual Plan](#)
[2018 WEQ Annual Plan](#)
[2018 WGQ Annual Plan](#)

[2019 Retail Annual Plan](#)
[2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#)
[2019 WGQ Annual Plan](#)

[NAESB Board of Directors](#)
[NAESB Executive Committee Members](#)
[NAESB Members](#)
[Membership Information](#)
[Copyright Report](#)

2019 Calendar:

March

- 3/6 - Retail Executive Committee Single Topic Conf. Call
- 3/7 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 3/12 - Board Revenue Committee Conf. Call
- 3/12 - Board Parliamentary Committee Conf. Call
- 3/19 - WEQ CISS Conf. Call
- 3/19 - Retail OpenFMB Conf. Call
- 3/21 - Joint WEQ OASIS and WEQ BPS Conf. Call
- 3/26 - WEQ Executive Committee Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 3/26-27 - WGQ IR/Technical Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 3/27 - Retail Executive Committee Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 3/27-28 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 3/28 - WGQ Executive Committee Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

April

- 4/2 - WGQ BPS Conf. Call
- 4/3 - Joint WGQ BPS, EDM and Contracts Conf. Call
- 4/5 - Retail OpenFMB Conf. Call
- 4/9 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 4/9-10 - WGQ IR/Technical Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/10 - NAESB Leadership Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/10 - NAESB Board Reception & Dinner with Guest Speaker (Houston, TX)
- 4/11 - Board of Directors Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/15 - Joint WGQ BPS, EDM and Contracts Conf. Call
- 4/16 - Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Web Cast Course
- 4/16-18 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Charlotte, NC)
- 4/17 - NAESB Update Conf. Call
- 4/19 - Holiday - Good Friday (NAESB Closed)

May

- 5/10 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 5/21 - Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) Model Business Practices Version 3.2 Course
- 5/21-23 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Dallas, TX)
- 5/27 - Holiday - Memorial Day (NAESB Closed)

June

- 6/6 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 6/11 - Board Revenue Committee Conf. Call
- 6/11 - Board Parliamentary Committee Conf. Call
- 6/19 - NAESB Update Conf. Call
- 6/25-27 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Portland, OR)

Cybersecurity: Every year, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee (WEQ CSS) holds conference calls to address two standing annual plan items. Under 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a, the WEQ CSS will evaluate the NAESB WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Business Practice Standards and the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities (ACA Specification) to determine if any changes will be needed to meet market new conditions. In October of 2018, a recommendation for the 2018 version of WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a was approved by the WEQ Executive Committee and resulted in revisions to align the ACA Specification with other industry guidelines, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) SP 800-63 Digital Identity Guidelines and the Certificate Authority/Browser Forum Guidelines for the Issuance and Management of Extended Validation Certificates.

As part of 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.b, the WEQ CSS will continue to monitor NERC activities related to the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards and any other activities of NERC and FERC related to cybersecurity. Recently, the NERC Board of Trustees approved the modifications to CIP-008-5 Cyber Security Incident Reporting. The modifications, undertaken as NERC Project 2018-02, were developed in response to the July 19, 2018 FERC Order No. 848 which directed NERC to augment mandatory reporting of cybersecurity incidents. Additionally, the WEQ CSS is monitoring NERC Project 2016-02 – Modifications to CIP Standards, an ongoing effort by NERC to revise its standards in response to directives contained in the January 21, 2006 FERC Order No. 822 which approved the revisions to Version V of the NERC CIP Reliability Standards. The NERC Standards Committee anticipates appointing members to the standards drafting team in April.

The WEQ CSS will schedule its first conference call later this year to begin discussion on these two annual plan items. As always, NAESB meetings are open to all interested parties.

For more information, please go to [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [Board Certification Committee Authorized Certification Authority Process](#), [NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities](#), [WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure Business Practice Standards](#), [October 9, 2018 WEQ Executive Committee Meeting Agenda](#), [Recommendation for 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a as Revised by the WEQ Executive Committee on October 9, 2018](#), [Attachment to Recommendation for 2018 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a, July 19, 2018 FERC Order No. 848](#), and [January 21, 2006 FERC Order No. 822](#).

Green Button Update: During its March 6, 2019 single-topic conference call, the RMQ Executive Committee approved a recommendation revising the Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices. Developed in response to Standards Request R13001, the recommendation was voted out of the ESPI Task Force during its February 13, 2019 conference call. Three comments – from FLUX Tailor, SSL.com, and the Green Button Alliance – were submitted during the abbreviated formal comment period which began on February 14, 2019 and concluded on February 28, 2019.

NAESB staff has been coordinating with the Ontario Ministry of Energy regarding the ESPI Model Business Practices in order to support Green Button in Ontario. Last May, the Ontario Ministry of Energy posted an update to the Ontarian Environmental and Regulatory Registries related to the *Regulatory Proposal for Province-Wide Implementation of Green Button*. The update announced that the Ontario Ministry of Energy intends to extend the time table for the regulatory proposal that would make it a requirement for Ontarian electric and natural gas utilities to implement two programs based on the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices. Although, the Ontarian government has been reshuffled since that first regulatory proposal, NAESB staff continues to communicate with the Ontario Ministry of Energy regarding its Green Button efforts. In 2012, the green button was introduced to Ontario with the support of the Ministry of Energy. *Ontario's Five-Year Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020* committed to expanding green button province-wide to let "Ontarians access and share their data on electricity, natural gas and water consumption in a secure, standardized electronic format." Today, more than half of Ontario-based consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses now have access to their energy usage information.

Throughout 2018 and into 2019, NAESB staff has continued to coordinate with the Green Button Alliance to coordinate on their activities related to the Green Button Initiative. The Green Button Alliance is an organization that facilitates compliance, development, and employment of the Green Button by providing certification of implementations, marketing, and education.

For more information, please go to [2019 RMO Annual Plan](#), [R13001](#), [Recommendation for R13001](#), [Attachment to Recommendation for R13001](#), [Request for Comments on R13001](#), [Comments Submitted by FLUX Tailor](#), [Comments Submitted by SSL.com](#), [Attachment to Comments Submitted by SSL.com](#), [Comments Submitted by Green Button Alliance](#), [February 13, 2019 ESPI Task Force Meeting Notes](#), [March 6, 2019 RMO Executive Committee Meeting Announcement and Agenda](#), and [October 10, 2018 RMO Executive Committee Meeting Notes](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Parallel Flow Visualization-Transmission Loading Relief (TLR): This year EIDSN, Inc. anticipates concluding the field trial that is testing the Parallel Flow Visualization (PFV)-related modifications to the Interchange Distribution Calculator (IDC) tool. With the goal of improving the congestion management process of the Eastern Interconnection, the PFV project enables real-time data to the IDC, enhancing the visibility of the source and magnitude of parallel interchange flows on the bulk electric system. The field trial to test the modifications to the IDC tool necessary to implement the NAESB PFV standards began in September of 2017. As an industry tool, the IDC is managed by EIDSN, Inc. and assists reliability coordinators in the implementation of the NAESB and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements related to the TLR procedure.

On November 1, 2018, NAESB filed the latest of several status reports with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions (FERC), drafted in coordination with NERC and EIDSN, Inc., to update the Commission on the PFV field trial as well as the continued coordination efforts of the organizations. The November status report is based, in part, on information from the EIDSN, Inc. PFV Metrics Report, provided to NAESB in September of 2018. That report described a preliminary assessment of the accuracy and effectiveness of the PFV enhancements to the IDC tool and indicates that the PFV congestion management process represents an improvement over current congestion management procedures for the Eastern Interconnection. EIDSN, Inc. has committed to providing an additional report on the reliability and commercial metrics of the PFV field trial, once the testing concludes. The WEQ Business Practice Subcommittee will utilize that upcoming report to determine whether any additional modifications should be made to the standards.

In February of 2015, the WEQ Executive Committee approved standards modifications for the PFV effort that included modifications to WEQ-000, WEQ-001, WEQ-002, WEQ-003, WEQ-004, WEQ-008, and WEQ-013. Additionally, the WEQ Executive Committee announced that the NAESB full-staffing process would be utilized for the PFV project – with the relevant WEQ standards held in abeyance from membership ratification until the WEQ Executive Committee approves the final recommendation.

For more information, please go to [November 1, 2018 NAESB PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [PFV Metrics Report](#), [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](#).



Blockchain Standards Development: In April, the Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) Business Practice Subcommittee (BPS), the WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanisms Subcommittee (EDM), and the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee have scheduled two joint conference calls to continue to discuss Standards Request R18007. Last year, the NAESB Advisory Council recommended that NAESB consider the development of standards to support blockchain technology in energy transactions, including how blockchain can improve resilience and supply chain integrity and how blockchain technology may support customer-to-customer transactions. In July, R18007 was submitted to the NAESB Office from Big Data Energy Services, Adjoint Inc., Pariveda, American Electric Power Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and JKM Energy & Environmental Consulting. In order to capitalize on smart contracts and distributed ledger technology, R18007 asks NAESB to develop a standard digital representation of natural gas trade events consistent with the NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas (NAESB Base Contract). During the conference calls, scheduled for April 3, 2019 and April 15, 2019, the participants will continue drafting a work paper that identifies the necessary data elements from the NAESB Base Contract, WGQ invoices, and related datasets that may be utilized within a smart contract.

Per the NAESB standards development process, the Triage Subcommittee and the WGQ Executive Committee jointly assigned R18007 to the WGQ BPS, WGQ EDM Subcommittee, and the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee to be addressed in the regular course of business. Furthermore, the WGQ Executive Committee requested that the first joint meeting of the subcommittees in October be held in-person and include an educational component to provide those not familiar with blockchain technology an opportunity to learn how it may be applied to the commercial practices of the natural gas market. During that meeting, a primer on the application of blockchain technology was provided by a participant from the Oil and Gas Blockchain Forum, and the entities that submitted the standards request provided a presentation and overview of the request. Outside of the NAESB standards development process, a blockchain proof of concept effort is being hosted by industry volunteers.

In the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) and Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ), two new blockchain items were added to the 2019 quadrant annual plans and were approved by the Board of Directors in December. First, a joint item to be addressed by the WEQ and RMQ asks for the consideration of blockchain standards to support the Renewable Energy Certificate processes. Also, a new blockchain annual plan item was assigned to the WEQ that proposes to review and potentially develop blockchain standards to support the streamlining of the power accounting close cycle. These annual plan items will be further discussed during upcoming RMQ and WEQ Executive Committee meetings in March.

For more information, please go to [2019 WGQ Annual Plan](#), [2019 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [NAESB Advisory Council Members](#), [February 10, 2018 Advisory Council Notes](#), [February 9, 2019 Advisory Council Announcement and Agenda](#), [Standards Request R18007](#), [September 20, 2018 Blockchain Press Release](#), [October 24, 2018 WGQ BPS, Contracts, and EDM Draft Meeting Minutes](#), [Presentation from R18007 Requesters](#), [Presentation from ConocoPhillips on Blockchain](#), [November 16, 2018 WGQ BPS, Contracts, and EDM Final Meeting Minutes](#), [January 17, 2019 WGQ BPS, Contracts, and EDM Final Meeting Minutes](#), [February 13, 2019 WGQ BPS, Contracts, and EDM Draft Meeting Minutes](#), [April 3, 2019 WGQ BPS, Contracts, and EDM Agenda](#), [October 4, 2018 RMQ Annual Plan Subcommittee Meeting Notes](#), [December 13, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting Announcement](#), and [March 26-28, 2019 Executive Committee Agenda](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT *(continued)***Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) Model Business Practices:**

On March 19, 2019, the OpenFMB Task Force held its second conference call to discuss Standards Request R18012, a request to develop baseline requirements for Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and digital certificate issuance in the RMQ.26 OpenFMB Model Business Practices. In order to provide background to begin to address the request, Dick Brooks provided a presentation on the WEQ-012 PKI Business Practice Standards and Stuart Laval delivered an overview of the RMQ.26 OpenFMB Model Business Practices. The PKI standards support mutual entity authentication through the use of digital signatures, authorized certificate authorities, issuance of certificates, and provision for public-private keys to access and protect market information and transactions. The OpenFMB Model Business Practices are composed of a reference architecture and an implementation guideline that enables intelligent devices on the grid to use a nonproprietary platform to communicate with each other. The OpenFMB Task Force will continue to discuss R18012 during its April 5, 2019 conference call.

Several OpenFMB-related standards requests – R19002, R19003, R19004, and R19005 – have been submitted to the NAESB office and are currently being triaged with proposed dispositions that assign the efforts to the OpenFMB Task Force. Once triaged, the OpenFMB Task Force will address the standards requests in the normal course of business.

In the past the user group for the OpenFMB Model Business Practices has transitioned from the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP), to the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA). Currently, the group is housed within the Utility Communications Architecture International Users Group (UCAIug). As stated on the UCAIug website, the OpenFMB user group role is “to accelerate the adoption of NAESB’s OpenFMB framework standard by organizing outreach activities to share lessons learned and potential applications (or use cases) when implementing the OpenFMB framework.” Further, a separate testing branch of the UCAIug, the Interoperability and Testing Certification Authority, will ensure conformance to the OpenFMB Model Business Practices. NAESB has accepted an advisory role in the UCAIug OpenFMB Users Group meetings.

For more information, please go to [2019 RMO Annual Plan, R18012, January 15, 2019 RMO OpenFMB Task Force Meeting Notes, March 19, 2019 RMO OpenFMB Agenda, R19002, R19003, R19004, and R19005.](#)

**WEQ Open Access Same-time Information Systems (OASIS) Subcommittee:**

On March 26, 2019, the WEQ Executive Committee will review the recommendation that proposes to add a new dynamic notification for the rollover rights renewal deadlines and modify the Dynamic Notification standards to provide the removal of the HTTP notifications. Additionally, the proposed standards establishes a generic structure for e-mail notifications that may be used for status notifications as well as notification for specific events such as notice to customers of the renewal deadline for rollover rights. A total of seven comments were submitted during the thirty day formal comment period for the recommendation which concluded on December 28, 2018.

In mid-February, the OASIS Subcommittee voted out a recommendation that modifies WEQ-001-7 to permit the alternative use of the 0-NX transmission product code without adversely impacting the existing Next Hour Market Standards. The thirty day formal comment period for the recommendation began on February 19, 2019 and concluded on March 20, 2019. To date, four comments have been submitted in support of the recommendation from Western Area Power Administration, the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee, BC Hydro, and Southern Company.

The WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) and the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee continue to meet jointly to discuss an annual plan item concerning Paragraph 1627 of FERC Order No. 890. Specifically, the posting of additional information on OASIS regarding firm transmission curtailments. This annual plan item is the final remaining directive from FERC Order No. 890 to be addressed by the industry through NAESB. March 18, 2019 marked the conclusion of the informal comment period for the draft recommendation. The WEQ OASIS Subcommittee will review any informal comments and continue to discuss the annual plan item during an upcoming meeting.

During its upcoming March 27-28, 2019 face-to-face meeting, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee will discuss the draft recommendation for 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.c and 3.e. As part of this effort, the subcommittee will review the Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) Business Practice Standards as well as consider standards to define the eligibility and treatment of Rollover Rights for NITS. Additionally, the subcommittee will develop template structures and other standards that support the standards, as necessary.

Soon, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee will set to work to develop requirements for OASIS to use data in the NAESB Electric Industry Registry (EIR). Also, the subcommittee will evaluate the need for standards to allow documentation for coordination of partial path reservations to demonstrate the complete path associated with long-term firm interchange.

For more information, please go to [FERC Order No. 890, 2019 WEQ Annual Plan, March 26, 2019 WEQ Executive Committee Agenda, Recommendation for 2019 Annual Plan Items 3.b and 3.f, Request for Comments on 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Items 3.b and 3.f, Comments Submitted by WAPA, Comments Submitted by IRC, Comments Submitted by BPA, Late Comments Submitted by OASIS in Response to BPA, Late Comments Submitted by OASIS in Response to IRC, Late Comments Submitted by OASIS with Late Comments Redlined, Late Comments Submitted by WEQ SRS, Recommendation for 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.g, Comments Submitted by WAPA, Comments Submitted by WEQ SRS, Comments Submitted by BC Hydro, Comments Submitted by Southern Company, Request for Informal Comments on Draft Recommendation for 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 2.a, Draft Recommendation for 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 2.a, Informal Comments Submitted by MISO, Informal Comments Submitted by BPA, Informal Comments Submitted by Southern Company, March 21, 2019 WEQ OASIS and WEQ BPS Agenda, and Draft Recommendation for 2019 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.c and 3.e.](#)

Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms (eForms): On January 25, 2019, the WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee met to discuss the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) regarding the FERC eForms effort. Issued on January 17, 2019, in Docket No. RM19-12-000, the NOPR proposes to transition the current filing process for FERC Forms 1, 1-F, 2, 2-A, 3-Q electric, 3-Q natural gas, 6, 6-Q, 60, and 714 from the current platform, Visual FoxPro, to a type of Extensible Markup Language (XML) called eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL). Additionally, the Commission discussed the role of NAESB as part of the FERC eForms effort, noting NAESB's facilitation of subcommittee meetings and contributions. In the NOPR, the Commission also identified plans to convene staff-led technical conferences in consultation with NAESB following the issuance of a final rule.

As a background, the WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee kicked off the first of a series of conference calls to address the transition in August of 2015. The NAESB Board of Directors established the subcommittee in response to the April 16, 2015 FERC Order Instituting Proceeding to Develop Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms in Docket No. AD15-11-000. The order proposed the use of the NAESB process to develop the XML file format for the submittal of various Commission identified forms currently submitted via Visual FoxPro. While citing the previous success of the NAESB standards development process in the electronic tariff (eTariff) project, the FERC asked that NAESB consider supporting the eForms effort in order to facilitate stakeholder development.

For more information, please go to [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2019 RMO Annual Plan](#), [2019 WGQ Annual Plan](#), [January 17, 2019 FERC eForms NOPR](#), [April 16, 2015 FERC eForms Order](#), [August 13, 2015 WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee Conference Call Final Minutes](#), [August 7, 2018 WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee Conference Call Final Minutes](#).

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Update on the Electric Industry Registry (EIR): The NAESB EIR serves as the central repository for information utilized by the wholesale electric industry. With the goal of improving efficiency and user experience, an update containing several minor changes to the NAESB EIR went live on February 27, 2019. The update included an expansion of the audit trail as well as the addition of a historical viewing mode. Additionally, users now have the ability to register for expanded alarms related to the removal of data objects from the system due to entity expiration. Finally, the update added a validation check to prevent simultaneous approvals/denials of a data object and corrected issues with the BA-BA adjacencies display and registry notifications.

Last year, two EIR Enhancement Requests – ER18001 and ER18002 – were submitted from Southwest Power Pool. ER18001 requested modifications to the EIR to modify the procedure for the subscription renewal process. ER18002 requested modifications to the pseudo-tie registration process to allow for the ability to identify whether a pseudo-tie is serving load or generation. Per the EIR Enhancement Request Process, the WEQ Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee (CISS) reviewed both requests. NAESB staff worked with the system administrator to obtain the additional needed documentation for ER18002, which was presented along with the request and recommendation of the WEQ CISS to the NAESB Managing Committee for consideration. NAESB staff is still coordinating with the system administrator to obtain the additional needed documentation for ER18001.

For more information, please go to [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [EIR Page](#), [EIR Enhancement Request Process](#), [February 26, 2019 EIR Announcement](#), [WEQ EIR Enhancement Requests Page](#), [ER18001](#), and [ER18002](#).

Sandia National Laboratories: This year, NAESB anticipates that Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) will provide a final report on the surety assessment being performed on the NAESB Business Practice Standards and Model Business Practices. In early February, the NAESB Board Critical Infrastructure Committee (Board CIC) met to develop written feedback to Sandia in response to a fourth iteration of the updated draft surety assessment received on January 25, 2019. There are four reports in total, each addressing a different topic: the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Business Practice Standards, the Business Operations Practices and Standards - addressing the WGQ and RMQ Internet Electronic Transport and Electronic Delivery Mechanism Standards, the OASIS, and an addendum that performs a threat-based examination of the standards reviewed as part of the surety assessment. Each report identifies findings and recommendations for improvements to the standards. The written feedback from the Board CIC was sent to Sandia on February 15, 2019 and provides comments on each finding, analysis, and recommendation. The committee found that, although the draft report establishes a basis for the initiation of standards development by NAESB, there were a number of findings and recommendations that could benefit from additional clarification.

Last year, Sandia made several drafts of the report available to NAESB. The Board CIC reviewed each iteration and provided written feedback to Sandia. In order to provide the most value to the industry, the committee has indicated that a final report should be drafted in a structure and format similar to the 2006 surety assessment with an emphasis on forward-thinking, vulnerability-based assessments. The written feedback, provided in March, August, and December 2018 following the receipt of each draft report, was intended to offer insights as to the level of detail and granularity which would be needed for NAESB to efficiently and effectively evaluate any findings and carryout subsequent standards development.

This is the third surety assessment sponsored by the Department of Energy, with previous assessments resulting in recommendations that led to modifications of the NAESB Business Practice Standards.

In other news, NAESB, Sandia, and the Department of Energy have held initial discussions concerning NAESB's blockchain annual plan items which may result in an opportunity for Sandia to contribute subject matter expertise if the potential standards development activities progress.

For more information, please go to [Board CIC Members Roster](#), [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [February 6, 2019 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [February 6, 2019 Draft Board CIC Comments in Draft Sandia Report](#), [Proposed Surety Assessment Standard Development Activities Work Paper](#), [GlobalSign Feedback on Draft PKI Report](#), [SSL.com Response to Sandia Draft Reports](#), [OATI Feedback on Draft PKI Report](#), [January 31, 2019 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [December 3, 2018 Board Critical Infrastructure Committee Agenda](#), [Initial Draft Sandia Surety Assessment Report](#), [February Board CIC Chair's Work Paper](#), [February Board CIC Feedback to Sandia](#), [June 18, 2018 Board CIC Agenda](#), [June 18, 2018 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), [Updated Draft Sandia Surety Assessment Report](#), [June Board CIC Chair's Work Paper](#), [July 12, 2018 Board CIC Agenda](#), [July Board CIC Draft Feedback to Sandia](#), and [July Board CIC Chair's Work Paper](#).

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NAESB Quadrant Membership Analysis:

Wholesale Gas Quadrant	123
Retail Markets Quadrant	41
Wholesale Electric Quadrant	136
Total Membership	300

NAESB New Members

Wholesale Electric Quadrant (Technology & Services):

Reliable Energy Analytics

Wholesale Gas Quadrant (Services):

The Energy Authority, Inc. and Alfa Corporativo S.A. de C.V.

Filings: On January 17, 2019, FERC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR), *Revisions to the Filing Process for Commission Forms*, in Docket No. RM19-12-000. That NOPR proposed that the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) standard be utilized by the industry for the submission of certain FERC forms. As detailed in the eForms section of this newsletter, the WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee has worked to address this effort in response to the April 16, 2015 FERC order announcing the Commission’s intention to replace Visual FoxPro with an XML format. That order, *Order Instituting Proceeding to Develop Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms*, was issued in Docket No. AD15-11-000.

On November 1, 2018, NAESB filed a Parallel Flow Visualization status report with the Commission in Docket No. EL14-82-000. Drafted in coordination with NERC and EIDSN, Inc., the update informs the Commission of information from the EIDSN, Inc. PFV Metrics Report, provided to NAESB in September of 2018. The EIDSN, Inc. report represents a preliminary assessment on the PFV enhancements to the IDC tool and indicates that the PFV congestion management process represents an improvement over current congestion management procedures for the Eastern Interconnection. A follow up report will be provided to NAESB from EIDSN, Inc. once the field trial has concluded.

On October 4, 2018, FERC issued a NOPR in Docket No. RM05-5-026 that proposed to remove the incorporation by reference of the WEQ-006 Manual Time Error Correction Business Practice Standards into its regulations. On November 28, 2018, NAESB submitted comments in response to comments that were submitted by Jonathan E. Hardis regarding the NOPR. The comments serve to clarify the notice provided by NAESB regarding the Time Error Correction standards development effort and speak to the openness and balance of interest created through the NAESB standards development process.

For more information, please go to [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2019 RMO Annual Plan](#), [2019 WGO Annual Plan](#), [January 17, 2019 FERC eForms NOPR](#), [April 16, 2015 FERC eForms Order](#), [August 7, 2018 WEQ/WGO FERC Forms Subcommittee Conference Call Final Minutes](#), [August 13, 2015 WEQ/WGO FERC Forms Subcommittee Conference Call Final Minutes](#), [November 28, 2018 NAESB Comments in Response to Comments on WEO NOPR](#), [November 15, 2018 FERC Order No. 587-Y](#), [November 1, 2018 NAESB Parallel Flow Visualization Status Report](#), [October 4, 2018 FERC NOPR](#), [October 26, 2015 NAESB Filing for WEQ Version 003.1](#), [July 21, 2016 FERC NOPR on WEQ Version 003.1](#), and [December 8, 2017 NAESB Filing for WEQ Version 003.2](#).

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.*

NAESB and NERC Continuing Coordination: Throughout 2019, NAESB and NERC will continue to hold monthly calls to discuss ongoing coordination efforts. One main topic of discussion has been NERC Project 2018-03 Standards Efficiency Review Retirements, a project begun last year to review each of the NERC standards to identify potential requirements that are not essential for reliability purposes. As part of this project, NERC is considering the retirement of several reliability standard requirements previously identified by the WEQ Standards Review Committee as potentially having an impact on corresponding WEQ Business Practice Standards. Specifically, the WEQ Business Practice Standards may be impacted by proposed revisions to the INT Reliability Standards, the proposed retirement of INT and MOD Reliability Standards, as well as the proposed withdrawal of the MOD-001-2 Reliability Standard. NAESB and NERC have discussed the need for coordination, including coordinated filings to the FERC, should NERC move forward with the proposed retirements.

As stated above, NAESB continues to coordinate with both NERC and EIDSN, Inc. regarding the Parallel Flow Visualization Effort. Recently, NAESB received a preliminary report indicating that the PFV process is an improvement over current TLR procedures. As communicated by EIDSN, Inc. leadership, following the conclusion of the field trial, another report will be provided to NERC and NAESB on reliability and commercial metrics. These reports will subsequently be reviewed by the NAESB WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee. While no adverse impacts to reliability are expected, NAESB will work with NERC to make modifications to the standards to address any reliability issues, should they be discovered.

For more information, please go to [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [PFV Metrics Report](#), and [November 1, 2018 NAESB Parallel Flow Visualization Status Report](#).



Upcoming NAESB Webcourses: On April 16, 2019, *Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Webcourse* will give participants the opportunity to hear from NAESB contracts subject matter experts. During the class, participants will review the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, the Canadian and Mexican Addendums, the Trading Partner Agreement (Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Overview, Provisions, and Exhibit), and give a brief overview of each of the other six WGQ contracts. The information provided during the course will give attendees a detailed understanding of the components of the contracts and supporting documentation and how they are utilized in the industry today.

On May 21, 2019, an Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) webcast course has been scheduled. During the course, subject matter experts will provide a review of the RMQ.26 OpenFMB Model Business Practices, a specification for a non-proprietary and standards-based field message bus that enables interoperability between power systems field devices. Additionally, the class will cover recent developments in the OpenFMB Framework.

Looking ahead, on September 24, 2019 NAESB will offer its NAESB 101 educational course providing an overview of the activities and functions of the organization. By popular demand, on October 22, 2019, NAESB will offer another Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Course. Additionally, dependent upon events within the industry, a WEQ Business Practice Standards: Updates and Changes to Version 003.2 Course may be scheduled towards the end of the year. The dates of any other 2019 webcourses will be announced by the NAESB office as they become available.

For more information, please go to [NAESB Primers and Training Courses Page](#).

FERC Orders: On November 15, 2018, FERC issued FERC Order No. 587-Y in Docket No. RM96-1-041, a final order that incorporates by reference into the Commission’s regulations Version 3.1 of the NAESB Wholesale Gas Quadrant Business Practice Standards. Submitted to the Commission on September 29, 2017, the publication incorporates action items from November 2014 to September 2017. The Commission previously issued a NOPR proposing to incorporate Version 3.1 of the WGQ Business Practice Standards on August 21, 2018.

As previously reported, Version 003.2 of the NAESB WEQ Business Practice Standards is pending in front of FERC. Although Version 003.1 of the WEQ standards was filed with the Commission on October 26, 2015 and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for that version was subsequently issued by the FERC on July 21, 2016, no final action has been issued from the Commission. NAESB published a new version of standards, Version 003.2, and filed a report with the Commission in Docket No. RM05-5-000 in December 2017. Version 003.2 incorporates action items from October 1, 2015 through December 8, 2017, including all of the modifications and additions in the Version 003.1 publication.

For more information, please go to [November 15, 2018 FERC Order No. 587-Y](#), [August 21, 2018 FERC NOPR](#), and [September 29, 2017 NAESB Filing to FERC](#).



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 Board Committees Update: Following the April 10, 2019 Leadership meeting, the NAESB Board of Directors will meet on April 11, 2019 to review the annual plans and financials, receive updates on the progress within board committees and subcommittees, and address other standing agenda items. Both meetings will be held in Houston, Texas at the Marriot Marquis Downtown. For our speakers, we are fortunate to have Annie McIntyre to discuss cybersecurity and representatives from Argonne National Labs to discuss projects relevant to NAESB, particularly as they relate to natural gas and electric market interdependencies.

On March 12, 2019, the Parliamentary Committee held a call to continue discussion concerning revisions to the NAESB Governance Documents, as part of a consistency review and update. After inconsistencies were found in the existing documents that have been revised many times over the organization’s 25-year history, the Board of Directors directed the Parliamentary Committee to undertake efforts to review and revise the NAESB Governance Documents. To conduct this review, the Parliamentary Committee is examining the NAESB Certificate of Incorporation, the NAESB Bylaws, and the NAESB Operating Practices to ensure that each of the documents are consistent with Delaware General Corporations Law, all other NAESB Governance Documents, and the original intent of the provisions. As a part of this review, where necessary, any Board resolutions or undocumented practices may be incorporated into the documents. In 2018, the Parliamentary Committee met three times to review and revise the NAESB Certificate of Incorporation. During the March 12 call, the Committee began the review and discussion concerning the NAESB Bylaws.

Also on March 12, the Board Revenue Committee held a conference call to review several items, including communications activities, the proposed publication cycles of the NAESB standards, the 2018 year-end and current financials, the membership report, the status of the Board and Executive Committee vacancies, and the membership prospect list. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the status of the distributed ledger technology annual plan items in each quadrant and discussed the upcoming April board meeting.

As detailed in the Sandia National Laboratories surety assessment section of this bulletin, the Board CIC continues its efforts concerning the Sandia surety assessment of the NAESB Standards and Model Business Practices. During the February 6, 2019 conference call, the committee developed written feedback to Sandia National Laboratories in response to an updated draft surety assessment report received in late January. The final version of the surety assessment report is expected to be completed in 2019.

For more information, please go to [2019 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2019 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2019 WGO Annual Plan](#), [April 11, 2019 Board of Directors Announcement](#), [Parliamentary Committee Roster](#), [NAESB Certificate of Incorporation](#), [NAESB Bylaws](#), [NAESB Operating Procedures](#), [March 12, 2019 Parliamentary Committee Agenda](#), [NAESB 2.0 Bylaws Workpaper](#), [March 12, 2019 Board Revenue Committee Agenda](#), [February 6, 2019 Board CIC Meeting Notes](#), and [Board CIC Comments on Draft Sandia National Laboratories Report](#).