

# NAESB Bulletin

March - July 2021 Volume 14, Issue 1

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## 2021 Calendar

### August

8/3 - Joint WEQ BPS and RMQ BPS  
Conf. Call  
8/4 - WEQ CISS Conf. Call  
8/5 - WEQ BPS Conf. Call  
8/11 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call  
8/16 - Joint WEQ BPS and RMQ BPS  
Conf. Call  
8/17 - WEQ OASIS Conf. Call  
8/19 - WEQ BPS Conf. Call  
8/19 - WGQ Contracts Conf. Call  
8/25 - NAESB Update Conf. Call  
8/31 - Joint WEQ BPS and RMQ BPS  
Conf. Call

### September

9/2 - NAESB Board of Directors and  
Meeting of the Members Strategic  
Session Virtual Meeting Conf. Call  
9/6 - Holiday - Labor Day  
(NAESB Closed)  
9/14 -16 WEQ OASIS Conf. Call

### October

10/5 - WEQ Executive Committee Conf.  
Call  
10/6 - 7 WEQ OASIS Conf. Call  
10/6 - RMQ Executive Committee Conf.  
Call  
10/7 - WGQ Executive Committee Conf.  
Call  
10/11 - Holiday - Columbus Day  
(NAESB Closed)  
10/19 - Understanding the NAESB WGQ  
Contracts Webinar Course  
10/20 - NAESB Update Conf. Call

***FERC Final Orders Adopting NAESB Standards:*** On July 15<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) took actions to revise its regulations through the issuance of two final orders that adopted NAESB Business Practice Standards. Specifically, FERC Order Nos. 587-Z and 676-J incorporated by reference, with certain exceptions, the latest versions of the NAESB Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) and Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) Business Practice Standards, respectively.

In the July 15<sup>th</sup> FERC Order No. 587-Z (Docket No. RM96-1-042), the Commission adopted new and modified standards from Version 3.2 of the WGQ Business Practice Standards. This version marks the fifteenth publication of standards to support the wholesale gas market developed by NAESB. In the order, the Commission stated that the Version 3.2 “standards will enhance the natural gas industries’ computer security requirements” and the “data requirements will provide additional transparency to Informational Postings web sites and will improve communication standards.”

Version 3.2 includes the standards developed in response to the 2019 Sandia National Laboratories cybersecurity surety assessment of the NAESB standards sponsored by the Department of Energy (DoE). Additionally, in order to provide greater transparency to commercial business transactions, the version includes updates to the Nominations Related Standards and the Quadrant Electronic Delivery Mechanism Standards, as well as modifications to the data sets that support Nominations, Additional Standards, Flowing Gas, and Capacity Release. New and modified standards were also incorporated to support the digital use of the *NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas*. As in past orders, the FERC declined to incorporate by reference the NAESB Model Contracts and e-Tariff Related Standards. The new and modified standards included in the WGQ Version 3.2 publication were developed between September 2017 and August 2020. The publication was released on August 15, 2020 and, on August 17, 2020, NAESB submitted an informational filing containing the standards to FERC.

As stated above, the May 20<sup>th</sup> FERC Order No. 676-J (Docket Nos. RM05-5-029 and RM05-5-030) incorporated by reference, with certain exceptions, Version 003.3 of the NAESB WEQ Business Standards into the FERC regulations. Version 003.3 was developed over a period of about two years, from December of 2017 to March of 2020. The version includes the last of the Open Access Same-time Information Systems (OASIS) revisions to address FERC Order No. 890, the Parallel Flow Visualization Business Practice Standards to improve the Eastern Interconnection congestion management process, and standards in response to the DoE-sponsored Sandia National Laboratories cybersecurity surety assessment of the NAESB standards. Similar to FERC Order Nos. 676-H and 676-I, the Commission continued to list the NAESB Smart Grid Standards as part of non-mandatory guidance in its regulations.

In the order, FERC also directed the industry, through NAESB, to refine the Available Transfer Capability (ATC) and Available Flowgate Capability (AFC) calculation for wholesale electric transmission services. Further, the Commission revised its regulations to provide that transmission providers must avoid unduly discriminatory and preferential treatment in the calculation of ATC. In Paragraph 38, the Commission stated that the revisions are “necessary to ensure that transmission provider ATC calculations are transparent, consistent with anticipated system conditions and outages for the relevant timeframe, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential.”

Additionally, the Commission urged the industry, through NAESB, to consider the scheduling flexibility concerns raised by two commentors regarding two WEQ Modeling standards, WEQ 023-01.4 and WEQ 023-1.4.1. In correspondence to the NAESB WEQ membership dated May 21, 2021, Michael Desselle, Chair of the NAESB Board of Directors, emphasized that “NAESB has already taken steps via the 2021 WEQ Annual Plan to ensure that the WEQ Executive Committee and its subcommittees can take timely action in response to the Commission’s direction....”

### Helpful Links on the NAESB Home Page:

- [NAESB Bulletin](#)
- [What’s Hot](#)
- [NAESB Standards and Implementation](#)

**FERC Order No. 2222 and FERC Order No. 841:** On June 21<sup>st</sup> NAESB submitted an informational status update to FERC on the NAESB WEQ standards development activities in response to FERC Order Nos. 841 and 2222. The report highlights the ongoing standards development effort within NAESB related to energy storage, and, more broadly, distributed energy resources, intended to support the industry as it implements FERC Order Nos. 841 and 2222. Included in the report is a description of activities that resulted in NAESB’s determination to address standards development in this area as well as the current status of the WEQ standards development effort. To date, the WEQ Business Practice Standards Subcommittee (BPS) has held eleven meetings to discuss the assigned areas of standards development: (1) business practices that define an index/registry for qualified energy storage resources and distributed energy resources participating in the wholesale markets; (2) business practices for information and reporting requirements for qualified energy storage resources and distributed energy resources participating in the wholesale markets; and (3) business practices to establish performance metrics for qualified energy storage resources and distributed energy resources participating in the wholesale markets.

Over the past several meetings, the subcommittee has focused on the potential development of standards in two areas – standards that address information and reporting requirements and the creation of an index or registry. Regarding information and reporting requirements, the subcommittee has focused on the identification of descriptive characteristics for distributed energy resources, distributed energy resource aggregations, and energy storage resources that may be needed, such as locational and operational information, that could serve as the basis for drafting standards to support the communication of such information between relevant parties. Based on subcommittee discussions, it has been proposed that an index or registry could potentially house the information and reporting data provided by individual resources, such as geographic and interconnection information, capacity information, and an indicator as to if a resource is part of an aggregation. This information could then be accessed by parties such as Independent System Operators or Regional Transmission Organizations, relevant energy retail regulatory authorities, load serving entities, distribution companies, and distribution system operations.

Last year, the NAESB Advisory Council recommended that NAESB explore the potential for the development of business practices in the area of battery storage. Moreover, the results of the *NAESB 2020 Standards Development Survey* reflected strong industry support for NAESB to consider battery storage standards. In response, the NAESB Board of Directors added the three standards development items noted above to the 2021 WEQ Annual Plan. The next WEQ BPS meeting is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 PM Central. As with all NAESB standards development efforts, participation in the process is open to all interested parties, regardless of membership.

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**WGQ Contracts Renewable Natural Gas Effort:** On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the NAESB WGQ Contracts Subcommittee will hold its next meeting to resume drafting a renewable natural gas addendum to the *NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas* (NAESB Base Contract). While standardizing terms and definitions commonly used within the industry, the participants will also discuss how the addendum will best support renewable natural gas transactions in both the regulatory and voluntary markets.

As background, following the creation of the Board Task Force on Renewable and Sustainably Produced Natural Gas during the September Strategic Session of the NAESB Board of Directors meeting, the Chair of the NAESB board directed the task force to investigate potential standards development opportunities in support of both renewable natural gas and sustainably produced natural gas. While the task force discussed the possibility of developing renewable natural gas and sustainably produced natural gas standards concurrently, it was ultimately determined that the two items should be addressed separately, as originally contemplated. Over the course of three meetings, the task force met to develop a scope of work and proposed the annual plan item which led to the drafting of a renewable natural gas addendum. Since its February kick off call, the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee has held six meetings with broad participation from the wholesale gas industry.

**NAESB Quadrant Membership Analysis:**

Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ)	114
Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ)	36
Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ)	131
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>281</b>

**New NAESB Members:** Bolsa Mercantil de Colombia (WGQ, Services), Improving Works Inc. d.b.a. Improving – Houston (WGQ, Services), and Summit Utilities, Inc. (RMQ, Retail Gas Market Interests)

**Gas-Electric Harmonization:** Given the recent cold weather events and outages which underscore the interconnection of the electricity and natural gas markets in North America, Michael Desselle, Chair of the NAESB board, has reconvened the Board Gas-Electric Harmonization Committee. To date, the committee has held two meetings with a third scheduled for August 26, 2021.

About 86 member and nonmember companies participated in the June kickoff meeting during which attendees reviewed the role of the committee, heard opening remarks, and discussed the recent cold weather occurrences. Bob Gee of Gee Strategies Group, also spoke to the committee about the report developed by a group of former Public Utility Commissioners of Texas in response to the issues presented by Winter Storm Uri – *Never Again: How to Prevent Another Major Texas Electricity Failure*. Following the discussion on possible activities and deliverables that the committee could recommend to the NAESB Board of Directors, the participants agreed to distribute a request for comments and/or proposals to provide the industry with an opportunity to contribute additional information for the committee to consider. Ten comments were submitted during the comment period. The commentors included Skipping Stone, American Gas Association, BP Energy, several WGQ Pipeline Segment Members, AEP, APGA, the ISO/RTO Council Standards Review Committee along with the Electric Gas Coordination Task Force (EGCTF), Cheniere Energy, Southern Company, and the WGQ Producer Segment Board Members.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, the committee met again and following a review of the comments and proposals received, determined that the next steps will be to identify the recommendations from the comments along with previous proposals. Additionally, the committee will consider policy questions that have been presented to or considered by FERC. On September 2, 2021, the Board of Directors will hear a report on the committee efforts.

As stated above, the next meeting of the Board Gas-Electric Harmonization Committee will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30 PM Central. Please RSVP with the NAESB office if you plan to attend.

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**WEQ OASIS Subcommittee Activities:** During its October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee will consider several recommendations developed and approved by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the subcommittee voted out a recommendation containing revisions to WEQ-002, -003, and -013 in order to provide for the identification of all modifications of service made to an original reservation in a location within OASIS. During the thirty-day formal industry comment period, which concluded on July 21<sup>st</sup>, PJM submitted substantive comments with a supporting examples document and Southern Company submitted comments to correct grammatical errors. During its August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee will review the comments submitted and may respond by drafting late comments for the WEQ Executive Committee.

In mid-May, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee approved a recommendation reviewing and revising WEQ -001, -002, -003, and -013 to achieve consistency in the definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations. The thirty-day formal comment period on the recommendation concluded on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with one comment submitted from MISO. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee reviewed the MISO comment and responded by developing two late comments for review during the October WEQ Executive Committee meeting.

Also, during the October meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee will review a no action recommendation in response to the *FERC Order on Clarification re: Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities*. As explained in the no action recommendation, the modifications previously developed by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee in response to FERC Order No. 676-I, as part Standards Request R20003, fulfill the Commission’s request in the FERC Order on Clarification that the industry work through NAESB to “develop separate uniform standards governing redirects from conditional parents.” On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee approved the no action recommendation. No comments were submitted during the thirty-day formal industry comment period which concluded on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Looking ahead, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee has scheduled its next meeting for August 17, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Central. During that meeting, the subcommittee will continue to discuss and possibly vote on a cross-reference table for the WEQ OASIS Business Practice Standards in order to provide specificity in determining which standards are linked together. As stated above, the subcommittee will also review comments received on the OASIS revisions to provide for the identification of all modifications of service made to an original reservation in a location within OASIS. Additionally, the participants will discuss Standards Request R21003, a request to review WEQ-000, WEQ-002, and WEQ-013 to extend in timing in Timing Tables 4-2 & 105-A, evaluate the Redirect of Rollover Rights: Opt-out, support enhanced visibility of profile changes, and to allow release of point-to-point capacity for concomitant requests. The WEQ OASIS Subcommittee meetings are open to all interested parties.

**NERC Coordination:** As always, NAESB is actively coordinating with NERC to ensure the organizations remain in sync regarding commercial and reliability issues that impact the wholesale electric market. To help effectuate this coordination, the staff of NAESB and NERC are in frequent contact, including regular calls to discuss ongoing areas of coordination. Recently, these coordination efforts resulted in NERC submitting a request for standards development to NAESB regarding changes to a defined term in the NERC Glossary. The term is used in both the NERC Reliability Standards as well as the NAESB WEQ Business Practice Standards, and the request proposes NAESB consider making complementary modifications to its definition. Where possible, NAESB aligns the definitions for shared terms with NERC to help promote clarity and avoid confusion that may arise from inconsistent definitions. The request has been assigned to the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee (SRS) which initially reviewed the request and developed a draft recommendation during its July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The subcommittee expects to vote on the recommendation during its meeting scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>.

To help further promote coordination between the organizations, NAESB and NERC staff also engage in discussions regarding the NAESB annual plan development process and the NERC reliability standards development planning. NERC released its Draft 2022 – 2024 Reliability Standards Development Plan on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The WEQ SRS will review the draft plan, as it does every year, during its August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to identify areas of potential coordination for planned NERC projects. Any comments of the subcommittee will be forwarded to the NAESB Managing Committee for consideration.

As mentioned in the Cybersecurity section of this bulletin, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee (WEQ CSS) approved a recommendation to modify the *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities* during its July meeting. The recommendation, was the result of an extensive review and ongoing monitoring of FERC actions and NERC projects related to the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards. These proposed revisions, which will be considered by the WEQ Executive Committee on October 5<sup>th</sup>, address requirements for NAESB Authorized Certification Authorities issuing code signing certificates and are supportive of the NERC CIP-010 Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessment Reliability Standards which require verification of the identity of a software source.

Finally, as discussed in the section of this bulletin addressing FERC Order No. 676-J, WEQ Version 003.3 contains several standards revisions that were the result of long-term coordination efforts between NAESB and NERC, including the WEQ Parallel Flow Visualization (PFV) Standards and Modeling Standards.

The WEQ PFV Standards, also developed in coordination with EIDSN, Inc. establish a new congestion management process for the Eastern Interconnection that will incorporate the use of real-time data in curtailment and relief obligations. The WEQ Modeling Standards, developed at the request of NERC, address commercial requirements for the calculation of ATC as well as other related values and support the proposed retirement of the NERC MOD A Reliability Standards. Both sets of standards were included in FERC's adoption of WEQ Version 003.3 through the incorporation by reference process.

**Upcoming NAESB Courses:** Over the years, the NAESB webinars have increased in popularity. The invaluable materials and information provided during these courses have assisted hundreds of gas and electric participants in their work towards industry goals. NAESB will continue to hold its popular industry webinars for interested parties. As the dates for webinars are scheduled, they are made available on the NAESB Primers and Training Courses Page. *Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Course* provides a review of the NAESB Base Contract and its addendums taught by subject matter experts. The *NAESB 101 Webinar* provides a great introduction to the NAESB standards development process and the organization of NAESB. Also, every year, NAESB offers a version of the NAESB 101 class specifically for NARUC. Additional courses may assist those submitting comments in response to Notices of Proposed Rulemaking or considering the implementation of new standards.

**Renewable Energy Certificates:** On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the WEQ and RMQ Business Practice Subcommittees (BPS) will continue its series of joint meetings to draft a proposed NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Voluntary Renewable Energy Certificates (REC Base Contract). The language of the annual plan item was drafted as a two-step process with the first step – the drafting of the actual contract – already completed. The subcommittees will vote on the contract during the August meeting. On April 28, the subcommittees posted the draft contract for an informal comment period that concluded in late-May. The informal comments were reviewed and resulted in several modifications to the document. If voted out during the August meeting, the REC Base Contract will be posted for a thirty-day formal comment period and be considered during the October RMQ and WEQ Executive Committee meetings.

Now, the participants have turned their focus to the second step of the annual plan item – the development of supporting technical implementation, such as corresponding data dictionaries, models, and code value dictionaries. The documentation is intended to allow the contract to be utilized across multiple electronic platforms, including distributed ledger technologies. As stated, the next WEQ and RMQ BPS meeting is scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Central and will be followed by another meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Cybersecurity:** On May 12, 2021, the President issued Executive Order 14028, *Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*. The Executive Order directs government entities to complete a list of tasks, including the development of a definition of “critical software”, requirements for a Software Bill of Materials, and other actions imposed on various federal agencies.

In response to the Executive Order, the NAESB Board Strategy Committee met on May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Executive Order and the possibility of evolving the NAESB cybersecurity gas and electric standards. The Board Strategy Committee call spurred a joint meeting in mid-June of the WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanisms Subcommittee and the Retail Information Requirements Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee. After the subcommittees reevaluated the decision to retain single-factor authentication in the most recent version of the WGQ Business Practice Standards, the participants determined that they would continue to monitor the regulatory environment and noted that the subcommittees are available to pursue additional standards development, under a standards request or annual plan item, to support multifactor authentication.

During the June 16, 2021 NAESB Update Call, Kevin Stine from the National Institute of Standards and Technology provided NAESB participants with an overview of NIST's deliverables and timeline in response to the Executive Order. NIST held a workshop in June and, on June 25<sup>th</sup>, issued a white paper providing the definition of “Critical Software”. Also, in response to the Executive Order, on July 11<sup>th</sup>, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published an ingredient list of minimum requirements that should be included in Software Bill of Materials, including required data fields, certain operational considerations, and automation support.

On May 20, 2021 and July 15, 2021, FERC issued two orders, FERC Order No. 587-Z and Order No. 676-J, which incorporated by reference NAESB wholesale gas and electric cybersecurity standards developed in response to the 2019 Sandia National Laboratories cybersecurity surety assessment report sponsored by the Department of Energy. At the request of the DoE, NAESB expedited the standards development efforts in order to mitigate potential security issues identified within the report. The resulting standards aligned security requirements with industry cybersecurity best practices, removed the legacy functionality that could have provided a vehicle for cyber-attacks, and incorporated enhanced secure communication protocols and encryption methodologies. The updated standards deprecate Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol and introduce the more secure Transport Layer Security (TLS) cryptographic protocol. The WGQ and RMQ worked jointly to address their assigned standard development items, with the resulting recommendations modifying the WGQ and RMQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) and Internet Electronic Transport (IET) Business Practice Standards and Model Business Practices. Within the WEQ, the standards development effort led to recommendations that modified the *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities* (ACAs) document as well as the WEQ OASIS business practice standards.

In the surety assessment report, it was noted that the process of developing and modifying cybersecurity standards through NAESB and submitting those standards to FERC for consideration as part of a possible rulemaking prior to implementation by the industry requires a minimum amount of time that could be abbreviated to ensure base level protections are being employed by all parties to transactions within the industry. To support market needs, the Board Strategy Committee met to review the NAESB standards development process in light of these concerns and will hold further discussion during upcoming meetings.

On July 13, 2021, the WEQ CSS voted out a recommendation to revise the *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities* in response to two annual plan items. The revisions require that code signing certificates issued by NAESB ACAs include the organization name in the organization field of the certificate and include mapping to supporting guidelines that ACAs issuing code signing certificates must follow. As discussed by the WEQ CSS participants, there is a growing industry reliance on code signing to verify software and other executables. Each year the WEQ CSS addresses two recurring annual plan items for the WEQ. First, a review of the WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure Business Practice Standards as well as the *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities* to determine whether any changes are needed to meet market conditions. Next, the second annual plan item is a review of the NERC CIP Reliability Standards as well as NERC and FERC activities related to cybersecurity to determine if complementary WEQ Business Practice Standards are needed. In developing the recommendation, the subcommittee reviewed and discussed the May 12, 2021 *Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*, the NERC CIP Reliability Standards approved by FERC via letter order on March 18, 2021, the June 18, 2020 FERC *Potential Enhancements to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards* Notice of Inquiry, the September 17, 2020 FERC Notice of Inquiry, *Equipment and Services Produced or Provided by Certain Entities Identified as Risks to National Security*, and several NERC reliability standards projects.

As stated above, the recommendation, addressing both of the annual plan items, was approved by the WEQ CSS in July and has been posted for a thirty-day comment period that concludes on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The WEQ Executive Committee will review the recommendation and any comments received during its October meeting. The subcommittee will continue to monitor NERC activities and FERC cybersecurity actions for any potential modifications to the WEQ Business Practice Standards or the *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities*.

**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 NAESB Staff ([naesb@naesb.org](mailto:naesb@naesb.org)) for additional information.

**Copyright/NAESB Standards Access:** As you are 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 the publication, reproduction, display, and distribution of all copyrighted material. 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. While NAESB does enforce its copyrights, the organization has developed policies intended to facilitate sharing information and has granted waivers to regulators and educational institutions depending on the intended use. NAESB also has 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, such as for a government comment period. 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.



**Filings:** As detailed above, on June 21, 2021, NAESB submitted an informational status update to the FERC on the standards development activities to respond to FERC Order Nos. 2222 and 841. The update describes the activities and discussion leading to the board’s decision to address distributed energy resources, such as battery storage, and provides an overview of the current status of the WEQ standards development effort.



**NAESB Board Committees Update:** On May 20<sup>th</sup>, three Board Committees – the Parliamentary Committee, the Board Strategy Committee, and the Board Revenue Committee – met to continue work on several key efforts that speak to the core of NAESB as an organization. As you may remember, the NAESB Board Committees serve at the pleasure of and report to the NAESB Board of Directors. The next Board of Directors virtual meeting, including the Meeting of the Members and Strategic Session, is scheduled for September 2, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Central.

In its May meeting, the Parliamentary Committee wrapped up its initiative to update the NAESB Governance Documents. Since April of 2017, the committee has met to discuss and review the NAESB Certificate of Incorporation, the NAESB Bylaws, and the NAESB Operating Procedures. As part of this process, the committee members reached consensus on updates and revisions that support the alignment of each of the NAESB Governing Documents with the following goals: consistency with Delaware corporate law, consistency with the document itself and the other NAESB Governance Documents, consistency with the original intent of the adopted provision and/or procedure, and consistency with the original intent of the adopted provision and/or procedure. The revisions will be presented to the Board of Directors during its September meeting.

Also on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Board Strategy Committee met to discuss several topics of importance to the gas and electric industries. During the meeting, Michael Desselle, Chair of the NAESB board, reconvened the NAESB Board Gas-Electric Harmonization (GEH) Committee to discuss potential gas-electric coordination activities that NAESB should consider in response to recent cold weather events and outages. The resulting Board GEH Committee meetings are detailed in the GEH section of this newsletter. Also, as detailed above, the Board Strategy Committee discussed the May 12, 2021 Executive Order 14028, *Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity* and opportunities to evolve the NAESB cybersecurity standards, especially in the area of multi-factor authentication. Additionally, the committee reviewed and continued its revisions to the draft 2021-2023 NAESB Strategic Plan. Citing to the rise of hydrogen as a fuel source, the Board Strategy Committee suggested that NAESB examine the transactional process for any developments, such as standardized contracts, that may be beneficial to the industry. Similarly, a standardized contract or addendum to support sustainably produced natural gas, was also discussed as an item for NAESB to revisit. The next Board Strategy Committee meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2021 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM Central.



**Resources for Additional Information:** The following hyperlinks provide more information on standards development efforts and other activities within NAESB. Please log into the NAESB website to access the members only links.

- **FERC NOPRs and Orders:** [July 15, 2021 FERC Order No. 587-Z \(WEQ Version 003.3\)](#), [May 20, 2021 FERC Order No. 676-J \(WGQ, Version 3.2\)](#), [February 18, 2021 FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(WGQ, Version 3.2\)](#).
- **NAESB Filings:** [June 21, 2021 - NAESB Informational Status Update on NAESB Standard Development Efforts to Support FERC Order Nos. 841 and 2222 \(Docket No. RM05-5-000\)](#), [March 19, 2021 NAESB Comments Submitted to FERC on NOPR issued February 18, 2021 for \(WGQ Version 3.2\)](#).
- **NAESB Press Releases, Notices, and Correspondence:** [Correspondence from Michael Desselle regarding FERC Order 676-J action on WEQ Version 003.3 Standards](#), [July Press Release re: FERC Action of Version 3.2 of the WGQ Standards](#), [June Press Release re: FERC Action on Version 003.3 of the WEQ Standards](#), [July 12, 2021 - FINAL REMINDER: NAESB EIR Server Storage Infrastructure Migration](#), [EIR Server Storage Infrastructure Migration](#), [June 14, 2021 - NAESB EIR Server Storage Infrastructure Migration Reminder](#), [June 1, 2021 - NAESB EIR Server Storage Infrastructure Enhancement Announcement](#), [April 22, 2021 - NAESB EIR Update Release Announcement](#).
- **Recommendations:** [WEQ CSS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Items 4.a and 4.b](#), [WEQ CSS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.a.iv](#), [WEQ CISS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.a.ii](#), [WEQ OASIS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.c](#), [WEQ OASIS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.a.i](#), [WEQ OASIS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.d](#), [WEQ SRS 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.a](#), [Recommendation for NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Voluntary Renewable Energy Certificates](#).