

# NAESB Bulletin

November — February 2026 Volume 18, Issue 3

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## 2025-26 Calendar

### November

11/11 - WEQ OASIS Call  
11/17 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call  
11/27 - Holiday - Thanksgiving  
11/28 - Holiday - Day After Thanksgiving

### December

12/4 - Board Revenue Committee Call  
12/4 - Board Strategy Committee Call  
12/4 - WEQ SRS Call  
12/8 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call  
12/10 - NAESB Update Call  
12/11 - NAESB Board of Directors Meeting  
12/15 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call  
12/18 - Joint WEQ, RMQ BPS Call  
12/25 - Holiday - Christmas Day  
12/26 - Holiday - Day After Christmas  
12/31 - Holiday - New Year's Eve

### January

1/1 - Holiday - New Year's Day  
1/2 - Holiday - Day After New Year's  
1/6 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call  
1/14 - WEQ CISS Call  
1/16 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call  
1/19 - Holiday - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
1/29 - RMQ ESPI Call  
1/29 - WEQ CISS Call  
1/30 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call  
1/30 - Board Strategy Committee Call

### February

2/3 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call  
2/5 - WEQ SRS Call  
2/7 - NAESB Advisory Council Meeting  
2/12 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call  
2/16 - Holiday - President's Day  
2/17 - WEQ OASIS Call  
2/18 - NAESB Update Call  
2/24 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call  
2/26 - WEQ CISS Call

### *Distributed Energy Resources Activities:*

The WEQ and RMQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) finalized a concept paper on February 12, 2026, developed as part of a joint effort to consider the development of business practices that support the interoperability of distributed energy resource (DER) and DER aggregation registries. The concept proposal outlines a two-part approach to (1) create a centralized DER Entity Registry and (2) develop new NAESB Business Practice Standards to facilitate interoperability between DER registries and other data tools. This approach is intended to help facilitate cross-market coordination and better access to DER information while also supporting the implementation of state and federal regulatory requirements, including FERC Order No. 2222.

To assess support for the proposal and address industry concerns before proceeding with further development efforts, the WEQ and RMQ BPS initiated an informal comment period on the concept to solicit industry feedback. The subcommittees are asking for input in response to specific questions regarding the two-part proposal, including whether the proposed approach could facilitate interoperability between existing DER registries and support broader integration of DERs and DER aggregations across the industry. The informal comment period for the proposed conceptual approach will conclude on March 10, 2026. Following the close of the comment period, the WEQ and RMQ BPS will meet to discuss whether its efforts to develop standards that facilitate the industry's use of registries to share DER and aggregation data will be beneficial to the industry. The next joint subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2026, during which the group will review the feedback received and decide on any next steps regarding the creation of the DER Entity Registry and development of NAESB Business Practice Standards.

The joint subcommittees developed the proposed two-part approach over the course of thirteen meetings, with early discussions centered on how standardization could improve the availability and consistency of DER and aggregation data. These discussions included input from industry representatives regarding coordination challenges, information availability gaps, and information on existing tools and processes used to support DER data collection. The subcommittees then identified areas where standardization could be beneficial to address some of the challenges, such as wide variances in the quality, formatting, and content of DER information that are impacting data collection and validation processes. Further discussions, informed by NERC guidance and recommendations for collaborative DER information sharing and use cases developed by the participants, led to a general agreement that centralized registries, supported by a standardized framework and designed to be interoperable with existing industry tools and processes, would establish mechanisms to reliably access and validate DER information that could best address some of the issues identified by the subcommittees. After evaluating possible options, the participants determined the proposed two-part approach provides a practical framework to meet industry needs and accommodate existing structures.

As described in the proposal, the DER Entity Registry would serve as a common database for registering entities that provide or require access to information housed in industry developed DER registries. Similar to the NAESB Electric Industry Registry (EIR), the DER Entity Registry would define organizational categories and functional roles necessary to support mutual authentication and provide a basis for establishing data access controls and cybersecurity protocols. The proposal also includes the development of NAESB Business Practice Standards to support data interoperability between industry developed DER registries and other data tools. The standards are intended to work with existing industry processes and related industry tools to create a consistent approach for data compatibility between systems using DER and aggregation information by supporting consistency in data formatting, governance, and interface structures.

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### *NAESB Hydrogen Contract:*

At the beginning of the year, the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee received a Standards Request from the Clean Hydrogen Buyers Alliance proposing the development of an ammonia addendum to the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Hydrogen. The proposed addendum is intended to promote broader industry adoption of the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Hydrogen by establishing a standardized framework that captures the value of both low carbon ammonia and hydrogen within a single transaction. *(continued)*

**NAESB Hydrogen Contract (continued):**

As described in the Request, a standardized ammonia addendum would enable ammonia producers and buyers to transfer the carbon intensity values from low carbon hydrogen, facilitate the trading of instruments equivalent to Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs) used under the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Hydrogen, support buyers in reducing the overall carbon footprint, and help maintain North America’s global competitiveness in the production and trade of low carbon ammonia and fertilizer products in the international market. The requester is currently coordinating with the Ammonia Energy Association to gain input from a broad cross-section of the market, including potential draft materials, in preparation for a kickoff meeting at NAESB. The subcommittee is working to schedule the kickoff meeting in late March or early April, with plans to complete the effort by early July.

Additionally, later this year, the subcommittee may address a provisional item included as part of the 2026 WGQ Annual Plan regarding the development of electronic datasets and other technical implementation details to support the use of the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Hydrogen with Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT). It is anticipated that activities in this area would also be supportive of the proposed ammonia addendum. This would be consistent with past efforts by the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee to develop DLT-related business practice standards to create digitalized versions of the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas and the supporting Renewable Natural Gas Addendum and Certified Gas Addendum.



**Western Interconnection Congestion Management Activities:**

As announced in the December 16, 2025 press release, the WEQ Western Interconnection Loading Relief (WLR) Business Practice Standard was ratified on December 2, 2025 and is considered a final action available for industry use. The new standard supports a coordinated, flow-based congestion management approach for the West by establishing a standardized methodology to assign priority of curtailments and relief obligations to alleviate areas of constraint on the bulk electric grid. The WEQ WLR Business Practice Standards also specify requirements to help ensure equity, transparency, and consistency in industry implementation.

The WLR process, supported by the NAESB Business Practice Standards, provides market participants with a new congestion management mechanism that can help facilitate broader coordination between neighboring entities and promote greater efficiencies in resolving congestion across the Western Interconnection. The process is anticipated to improve visibility of sources materially contributing to areas of constraint, including those that cause loop flows, and support expanded curtailment capabilities. Development of standards involved a diverse group of industry participants representing various market interests within the Western Interconnection and staff from the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), the regional entity designated by NERC to oversee bulk electric system reliability for the Western Interconnection, regularly participated in the subcommittee meetings. Additionally, NAESB coordinated with NERC staff throughout the standards development process.

The WEQ-026 WLR Business Practice Standards will be included in the upcoming publication of the WEQ Business Practice Standards Version 004.1, scheduled for later this year. As has been done in the past, following release of the new version, NAESB plans to make an informational filing with the FERC regarding new and revised standards included as part of WEQ Version 004.1.

**2026 Annual Plan:**

On December 11, 2025, the NAESB Board of Directors approved the proposed 2026 Annual Plans for the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ. The 2026 Annual Plans includes several new standards development activities and continues efforts started from the prior year.

Newly added to the 2026 WEQ Annual Plan is an effort to develop standards that will provide consistency in rounding methodologies used to calculate integrated hourly values for commercial scheduling and transmission management. The WEQ also will be considering revisions to WEQ OASIS related standards based on operational and implementation experiences since industry adoption of WEQ Version 004. Additional WEQ activities include an item to consider standards to support third-party software verification and the implementation of NERC Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards within the wholesale electric industry, in accordance with the directive under FERC Order No. 912.

The 2026 WEQ Annual Plan, along with the 2026 RMQ Annual Plan, also includes a jointly assigned item with the RMQ to continue work initiated last year on developing business practices that support the integration of distributed energy resources (DERs) and DER aggregation registries by industry.

For the WGQ, newly assigned items under the 2026 WGQ Annual Plan include potential updates to the WGQ Nominations Related Standards. As part of the effort, the WGQ will review the current data elements within the standards to determine those that are no longer in use and should be deprecated or those that can be replaced by new business practices. The plan also includes an item to consider standard revisions to the NAESB Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) Standards supporting the NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, based on the findings of industry implementation testing being conducted in coordination with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Department of Energy.

In addition, the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ will each engage in their annual reviews of their respective WEQ and WGQ Cybersecurity Related Standards Manuals and RMQ Cybersecurity Model Business Practices to ensure alignment with current cybersecurity practices and technologies.

NAESB activities for this year also include plans to publish the next version of the WEQ and WGQ Business Practice Standards, along with the RMQ Model Business Practices. As noted in the NAESB Board and Board Committees Update section of this bulletin, the NAESB Board of Directors approved the publication schedule recommended by the Board Revenue Committee at its December 2025 meeting. Under the approved schedule, NAESB anticipates releasing the RMQ Model Business Practices Version 4.1 in the second quarter of 2026, followed by the WGQ Business Practice Standards Version 4.1 in the third quarter, and WEQ Business Practice Standards Version 004.1 in the fourth quarter. NAESB is currently coordinating with the chairs of each quadrant’s Executive Committee to finalize the specific publication dates.

**Helpful links on the NAESB Home Page:**

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

***WEQ Activities Supporting OASIS and e-Tag Transactions:***

The WEQ Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee (CISS) held its first meeting of 2026 in January to discuss a jointly assigned annual plan item with the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee and WEQ Open Access Same-Time Information Systems (OASIS) Subcommittee. The item involves assessing the need for revisions to the WEQ-004 Coordinate Interchange Business Practice to support greater consistency in integrated hourly value calculations. Under the current WEQ-004 standards, the integrated hourly value is calculated using a multi-step process that includes rounding the fractional values to the nearest whole megawatt-hour (MWh). This can result in differing calculated values depending on the step in which the rounding is performed and the number of decimals used to represent the fractional values being rounded. The values are utilized in various applications, including calculations to determine Area Control Error (ACE) values and real power losses, and differing values may have commercial and operational impacts for the industry.

During the kickoff meeting, there was general consensus among participants that additional granularity within the standards would be beneficial to address these issues. The WEQ CISS discussed potential standardized calculation approaches and reviewed two rounding methodologies commonly used in the industry, electronic tag (e-Tag) based rounding and interval-based rounding. In evaluating these methods, participants considered a number of factors, including prevalence of use, accuracy, complexity of standardization, and ease of use. The subcommittee also discussed the potential development of a new defined term for integrated hourly value that could be included in WEQ-000 to promote consistency and common understanding across the industry.

Building on these discussions, the WEQ CISS developed initial draft modifications to WEQ-004 over two subsequent meetings. At its most recent meeting, held February 26, 2026, participants finalized a proposal for draft modifications and continued to examine the potential impact on other WEQ standards, recognizing that integrated hourly values appear in multiple WEQ Business Practice Standards and are referenced in various commercial and operational applications. Now that the initial draft modifications are completed, the WEQ CISS will work with the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) and WEQ Open Access Same-Time Information Systems (OASIS) Subcommittee as these subcommittees evaluate the impacts of the proposed WEQ-004 revisions and determine whether corresponding modifications to other standards may be necessary.

Additionally, as part of the WEQ 2026 Annual Plan, the WEQ Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee (CISS) will undertake a review of the current version of the NAESB Electronic Tagging Functional Specification and make necessary updates to reflect current cybersecurity best practices. This effort will ensure that the specification continues to support applicable NERC Reliability Standards and NAESB WEQ Business Practice Standards.

On February 17, 2026, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee met to address a new Standards Request proposing to expand the maximum field length for posting rates to OASIS nodes from five to six digits. The Standards Request, submitted by Black Hills Energy, noted that the current five-character limit for posting bid prices has become restrictive due to rate increases, resulting in megawatt (MW) values that exceed the current character maximum. As a workaround, some entities have begun using kilowatt (kW) values, which creates inconsistencies in how posted prices are represented within OASIS nodes and may create confusion for customers evaluating transmission offerings. Discussion focused on expanding the maximum character length and number of decimals used to post transmission rates, with participants noting that accommodating larger MW values would support uniformity, and could increase transparency and clarity for transmission customers. It was also suggested that such a modification could provide flexibility for transmission providers that could better accommodate market changes, such as the integration of distributed energy resources and expanded large loads. Further consideration of revisions will be continued at the subcommittee's next scheduled meeting on March 24, 2026.

As part of the February meeting, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee also discussed the issues outlined by the WEQ CISS as part of its initial work on the integrated hourly value effort, including the potential creation of a defined term for integrated hourly value. Participants provided input on how the calculation for integrated hourly value may vary depending on application in different use cases. Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed the OASIS-related WEQ Business Practice Standards as part of its assigned annual plan item to identify any updates based on implementation and operational experience. Several potential topics were identified for further consideration, including areas to provide additional clarity related to the representation of rollover rights as part of pending transmission service reservations and support greater consistency in language across standards. The subcommittee plans to resume discussions on these two annual plan assignments as part of its next meeting.

***WGQ BPS Activities:***

The WGQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) has scheduled its first meeting of the year for March 18, 2026, to address the assigned 2026 WGQ Annual Plan Item to consider updates to the WGQ Nomination Related Standards. During this kickoff meeting, the subcommittee chairs anticipate participants will review the current use of data elements in these standards and identify those that may require modification. Following this review, the WGQ BPS will hold subsequent meetings to make the corresponding updates, which may include replacing certain data elements with new business practices or deprecating data elements that are no longer in use. The intent of the effort is to streamline technical implementation processes and promote greater consistency among industry participants regarding data element usage. The WGQ BPS anticipate this effort to be completed by early July.

***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.

**NAESB Board and Board Committees Update:**

The NAESB Board of Directors held its most recent meeting on December 11, 2025. The meeting opened with remarks from Mr. Ayoub, Director of the Office of Electric Reliability at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), thanking NAESB for its ongoing efforts to support coordination between gas and electric markets. Several guest speakers followed with presentations focused on gas-electric coordination. Mr. Yagelski, Director of Gas Supply and Gas Control at Southern Company Gas, delivered a detailed presentation on the need for enhanced coordination to ensure reliability and the recommendations from the National Petroleum Council (NPC) report, *Reliable Energy: Delivering on the Promise of Gas-Electric Coordination*. Additionally, Mr. Moura, Director of Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), presented on NERC standards development efforts to support gas and electric coordination.

In addition to these presentations, the Board of Directors conducted its regular business, including a review of the membership and financial status, an assessment the progress of standards development projects over the year, and approval of the 2026 WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ Annual Plans, the 2026-2027 NAESB Strategic Plan, the 2026 budget, and supported the standards publication cycles for the next WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ Business Practice Standards. The Board of Directors also discussed the NAESB Board Strategy Committee’s preliminary considerations regarding NAESB’s potential response to recommendations in the NPC report, *Charting the Course: Reducing the GHG Emissions from the U.S. Natural Gas Supply Chain*, and Commissioner Chang’s concurrence to the October 16, 2025 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) issued by FERC, which proposed adopting the WGQ Business Practice Standards developed to support coordination between the natural gas and electric markets.

Prior to the Board of Directors meeting, the NAESB Board Revenue Committee and Board Strategy Committee met on December 4, 2025, to review the annual plans, strategic plan, budget, and publication cycle that were approved by the Board of Directors. The Board Strategy Committee also discussed plans to solicit feedback from the Board of Directors and Advisory Council on whether NAESB should consider standards development, as recommended in the NPC report, and the appropriate response to Commissioner Chang’s concurrence to the FERC NOPR. The concurrence included specific directions for NAESB to continue working to further enhance information sharing standards potentially including information related to the natural gas scheduled by generators that are not directly connected to interstate pipelines.

Following the Board of Directors’ review of the two issues, Mr. Desselle, Chairman of the NAESB Board of Directors, requested feedback from members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Council regarding NAESB’s course of action in both areas and whether it should pursue standards development in response.

*(continued)*

**NAESB Board and Board Committees Update (continued):**

The Board Strategy Committee met on January 30, 2026, to review six sets of comments submitted in response to the request for input on actions NAESB could take related to Commissioner Chang’s concurrence to FERC’s NOPR or the 2024 Greenhouse Gas Reduction study conducted by the National Petroleum Council (NPC). The Board Strategy Committee also reviewed eight sets of comments submitted in response to the FERC NOPR on the NAESB Gas Electric Coordination Standards as part of its meeting. These matters were further discussed by the Advisory Council during its meeting on February 7, 2026. Discussions remain ongoing, with another Board Strategy Committee meeting scheduled for March 16, 2026, to review the Advisory Council’s input and develop recommendations for the Board of Directors, including potential communications to the NPC, Commissioner Chang, or FERC. The Board of Directors will review the Board Strategy Committee’s recommendation prior to taking action.

**NERC Coordination:**

NAESB and NERC continue to engage in coordination activities on numerous topics to ensure consistency between the organizations in areas of overlap regarding commercial and reliability considerations in the wholesale electric industry. Recent areas of shared focus include cybersecurity and distributed energy resources (DERs).

As mentioned in the Cybersecurity and Distributed Energy Resources Activities section of this bulletin, the WEQ has ongoing efforts that align with these shared priorities. The WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee is considering the potential development of business practices that could support industry implementation of NERC Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards and FERC Order No. 912 Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards Revisions. The WEQ Business Practice Subcommittee is also working with the RMQ Business Practice Subcommittee to consider the development of standards that support integration and interoperability of DER and aggregation registries.

To further support coordination, the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee (SRS) monitors NERC reliability standards development projects and reviews those that may impact the WEQ Business Practice Standards. At its most recent meeting on February 5, 2026, the WEQ SRS reviewed several reliability efforts underway that are high priority for NERC in 2026. This included cybersecurity related efforts to address risk management for third-party cloud services and to address FERC Order No. 912 directives as well as ongoing NERC efforts to develop new or revised requirements for DERs. The subcommittee will continue to monitor these projects and coordinate with the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee and WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee accordingly. Additionally, as discussed during the meeting, the WEQ SRS plans to undertake a review of all NERC references, requirements, and guidelines within the WEQ Business Practice Standards with the goal of identifying any needed updates or revisions to be addressed prior to the planned publication of a new version of standards later this year. NAESB and NERC staff will continue to maintain communication to discuss progress on these efforts and to coordinate new or upcoming activities across both organizations.

**Cybersecurity:**

Cybersecurity continues to be a key focus for NAESB, with multiple standards development efforts in 2026 to ensure that NAESB Business Practice Standards address evolving cybersecurity needs within the industry and support secure electronic commercial communications.

Currently, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee and WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) are working together to address the jointly assigned 2026 WEQ Annual Plan Item to consider development of cybersecurity related standards supporting the wholesale electric industry’s implementation of FERC Order No. 912 and NERC Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards. As part of this work, participants are reviewing the need for new or revised standards related to vendor vulnerability disclosure reporting and third-party software verification.

Joint discussions began in December 2025, during which the subcommittees reviewed existing common vulnerability and exposure (CVE) programs and gaps in existing guidance to assess where NAESB standards could benefit the industry. Participants recognized a potential need for greater consistency and uniformity in vendor vulnerability reporting and are now exploring possible industry priorities for standardization, such as streamlining the identification of pertinent software vulnerabilities and helping to ensure vendors provide relevant information in a useful, consistent manner. This could include business practices to support minimum requirements for data authenticity and provenance for vendor products and vulnerability disclosures as well as standardized data and reporting formats. Participants have also discussed how standardized contract language could be leveraged by industry to help meet these goals.

The WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee and BPS have held two additional meetings this year. At their most recent joint meeting on February 24, 2026, participants discussed reporting timing and practices related to vendor notification of cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Participants noted the need to consider broader, cross-sector guidance and coordination with existing efforts, including NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) requirements related to supply chain cybersecurity risk management and other industry best practices. The discussion also highlighted the importance of balancing legal and financial implications for vendors with the risk to software customers and identified several sources of relevant guidance addressing vulnerability and incident reporting obligations, including federal agency and industry frameworks. Among these included guidance from the European Union Agency regarding the Cyber Resilience Act and guidance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) regarding the Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (CIRCIA). The subcommittees plan to continue these efforts at their next joint meeting in March, focusing on reviewing additional guidance and other relevant practices.

Additionally, the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ will conduct its annual review of their respective cybersecurity standards to identify any new or revised standards necessary to address changing technologies, regulatory expectations, and security frameworks and mitigate potential vulnerabilities. The review will include evaluating legacy functionalities that may need to be retired to reduce the risk of exploitation by malicious actors and confirmation that the communication protocols and encryption methodologies referenced within the standards align with relevant technical guidelines from the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) and NIST.

As part of the annual review, the WEQ will also assess whether modifications are needed in response to recent FERC and NERC cybersecurity-related activities or ongoing cybersecurity changes that may impact the Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities (ACAs). These requirements define the technical requirements a certificate authority must meet to issue WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital certificates as part of the NAESB Certificate Program for ACAs. Pursuant to FERC regulations, jurisdictional wholesale electric entities are required to use WEQ-012 PKI digital certificates to protect and access certain applications that support commercial scheduling and transmission management operations, such as OASIS nodes, electronic tagging systems, and the NAESB Electric Industry Registry. Areas of discussion for this year will include the development of NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards related to third-party cloud computing and NIST guidance on post-quantum cryptography.

**Distributed Ledger Technologies:**

With the support of the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE), NAESB and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) have launched the third phase of the NAESB Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) Standards Implementation Test. The third phase is built on the findings from the previous two phases and will further explore potential cybersecurity and efficiency benefits associated with distributed ledger based contractual mechanisms supported by the NAESB DLT Standards.

At the request of the U.S. DoE, the third phase will assess the full benefits of a registry designed to support transactions among parties using distributed ledger technology and ensure the cybersecurity of natural gas transactions under the NAESB Base Contract for Purchase and Sale of Natural Gas. Upon completion of the implementation test, the WGQ will meet to review any findings and consider updates or revisions to the current NAESB DLT Standards to incorporate cybersecurity requirements identified in the testing process.

**NAESB Quadrant Membership Analysis:**

Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ)	113
Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ)	33
Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ)	128
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>274</b>

### ***Green Button/Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI):***

On January 29, 2026, the ESPI Task Force approved a recommendation to revise the NAESB REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices to remove the Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) as a data transport method.

The recommendation, developed in response to a Standards Request submitted by the Green Button Alliance, noted that SFTP has not been used in any known industry implementations of Green Button programs and that SFTP may be less secure than the other method supported by the standards for third parties or data custodians to obtain customer energy usage information, Representational State Transfer (REST). Because SFTP remains an option in the ESPI standard, third-party vendors are required to continue to support it despite its lack of use. Deprecating SFTP as a transport capability could reduce implementation burdens and encourage broader participation. The formal comment period for the recommendation ended on February 27, 2026.

In addition, the Green Button Alliance submitted three Requests for Minor Corrections to the NAESB REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices. The Requests propose revisions to establish a consistent method for indicating deprecated elements and update diagrams included in the standards. Both the recommendation and Requests for Minor Corrections are scheduled for review at the upcoming RMQ Executive Committee meeting on March 5, 2026. If approved by the RMQ Executive Committee, the changes will be included in the next publication of the RMQ Model Business Practices.

The REQ ESPI Task Force will reconvene later this year to review an additional Standards Request submitted at the end of February 2026. The request proposes updates to the REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices to simplify implementation through the addition of a new schema and changes to support backward compatibility.

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### ***Upcoming NAESB Courses:***

NAESB plans to offer educational training opportunities throughout 2026 to help industry participants, regulators, and stakeholders better understand its standards development process and ongoing initiatives.

NAESB has announced that it will host its Understanding the NAESB Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) Contracts course on April 16, 2026. The webinar provides a review of the NAESB Base contract for the Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, offering a detailed review of its key provisions and supporting Canadian, Mexican, Renewable Natural Gas, and Certified Gas Addendums.

Information concerning future webinars will continue to be announced on the NAESB meeting calendar and the Primers and Training Courses page of the website.

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### ***Copyright/NAESB Standards Access:***

NAESB copyrights its work products – a practice used by most standards organizations. As such, NAESB retains its rights to publication, reproduction, display, and distribution. As part of their benefits, NAESB members may obtain materials free of charge, but those 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 fines, injunctions, the impounding of materials, the seizure of property, and awards 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.

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***Resources for Additional Information:*** The following hyperlinks provide more information on standards development efforts and other activities within NAESB.

***Regulatory Orders and Reports:*** [January 12, 2026 - Correspondence to Commissioner Chang Concerning Next Steps for Gas-Electric Coordination](#)

***NAESB Press Releases, Notices, and Correspondence:*** [December 16, 2025 – NAESB Adopts Standards to Support Flow-Based Western Interconnection Congestion Management](#)

***NAESB Mail Subscriptions:*** Registration in the NAESB e-mail information distribution system (NAESB Mail) is a benefit of membership. By electing to participate in NAESB Mail, members will receive targeted e-mail messages from the NAESB Office about relevant NAESB events, including conference-calling information, as well as important documents. What you won't receive are duplicate messages – no matter how many groups you subscribe to, when the same message is sent to multiple groups, you'll receive only one copy.