NAESB Bulletin

August — October 2026 Volume 19, Issue 2

Current 2026 Retail Annual Plan
Current 2026 WEQ Annual Plan
Current 2026 WGQ Annual Plan

NAESB Board of Directors
NAESB Executive Committee Members
NAESB Members
Membership Information

2026 Calendar

August
8/4 - WEQ OASIS Call
8/6 - WEQ CSS Call
8/11 - WGQ Executive Committee Meeting
8/11 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call
8/12 - WGQ EDM Call
8/18 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call
8/21 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call
8/26 - NAESB Update Call
8/27 - Board Revenue Committee Call
8/31 - WEQ SRS Call

September
9/3 - NAESB Board of Directors Meeting
9/3 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call
9/4 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call
9/7 - Holiday- Labor Day
9/10 - WEQ CSS Call
9/14 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call
9/16 - WEQ OASIS Call
9/17 - Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Webinar Course
9/24 - WGQ BPS Call
9/24 - Joint WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS Call

October
10/6 - WEQ Annual Plan Subcommittee Call
10/6 - WGQ Annual Plan Subcommittee Call
10/6 - RMQ Annual Plan Subcommittee Call
10/12 - Holiday - Indigenous Peoples Day
10/12 - WEQ SRS Call
10/14 - NAESB Update Call
10/15 - NAESB 101 Webinar
10/16 - Joint WEQ BPS, WEQ CSS Call
10/21 - WEQ Executive Committee Meeting
10/22 - RMQ Executive Committee Meeting
10/22 - WGQ Executive Committee Meeting

2027 Annual Planning Process:

On September 25, 2026, NAESB published Version 4.1 of the Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) Business Practice Standards, incorporating several updates intended to improve operational efficiency, communication, and cybersecurity across the natural gas industry. The publication includes the new NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Hydrogen, a Canadian Addendum, and an accompanying frequently asked questions (FAQ) document. Other revisions address the nomination process and capacity release transactions, including improvements to the exchange of information for early capacity releases that could reduce scheduling conflicts and support greater coordination between the natural gas and electric markets. Version 4.1 also adds SWIFT banking code data elements to the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), introduces data elements for swing contracts, and establishes multi-factor authentication requirements for access to customer activities websites on pipeline electronic bulletin boards (EBBs). Collectively, these changes are expected to reduce errors, improve the availability and exchange of information, and strengthen cybersecurity protections.

Following the publication of WGQ Version 4.1, NAESB is preparing to publish Version 004.1 of the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) Business Practice Standards on December 15, 2026. The publication will incorporate several standards revisions and other final actions approved since May 2023, including the WEQ Western Interconnection Loading Relief Business Practice Standard. This standard establishes a uniform method for determining curtailment priorities and relief obligations to address transmission constraints in the Western Interconnection. Additional updates are intended to improve consistency and transparency in resale transactions conducted outside OASIS nodes and provide greater clarity through revised references to NERC glossary terms. Version 004.1 will also include standardized contract provisions addressing vendor vulnerability disclosure reporting and third-party software verification, along with minor corrections to the standards.

Alongside these publication efforts, NAESB has been developing the 2027 Annual Plans for standards development activities across the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ. On October 6, 2026, the Annual Plan Subcommittee met to identify proposed activities for the coming year, which were subsequently approved by the respective Executive Committees as part of the October Executive Committee meetings.

For the WEQ, the proposed 2027 Annual Plan includes several activities continuing from 2026, including the annual review of the NAESB e-Tag Functional Specification and a joint effort with the RMQ to develop interoperability standards for a distributed energy resource (DER) registry to support DER integration. A new joint activity with the RMQ may also be added to consider business practice standards addressing wholesale market-specific conditions related to the integration of DER management systems. In addition, the WEQ will continue reviewing its OASIS Business Practice Standards to identify potential modifications based on implementation and operational experience following the anticipated publication of WEQ Version 004.1 in December 2026.

Similarly, the proposed 2027 Annual Plan for the WGQ includes activities that have been carried over from this year, including development of a contract for the sale and purchase of ammonia. Progress on this effort has been delayed by limited participation from key contributors due to geopolitical and market conditions affecting the ammonia supply chain and certification process. The WGQ may also consider revisions to the cybersecurity provisions of its existing Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) standards following the anticipated completion of the third phase of DLT testing.

In addition to these quadrant-specific activities, the proposed 2027 Annual Plans for all three quadrants will continue to include the recurring annual review of cybersecurity-related standards. As the next step in the annual planning process, the proposed 2027 Annual Plans will be reviewed by the Board Strategy Committee on November 20, 2026 before being presented to the Board of Directors for final approval at its December 10, 2026 meeting.

Distributed Energy Resources Activities:

The WEQ and RMQ Business Practices Subcommittees (BPS) have continued to hold joint meetings to develop standards that would facilitate the integration and interoperability of DER aggregation registries and other industry systems that use DER information. Currently, the joint subcommittees are refining the proposed standard language that would to promote interoperability without prescribing a specific technology, protocol, data model, or implementation method for the retail market.

Initially, the joint subcommittees considered a two-step approach involving the creation of a new DER Entity Registry and the development of NAESB Business Practice Standards to facilitate data exchange among existing registries, tools, and processes. Following an informal industry comment period and discussions with stakeholders, including NERC staff, the joint subcommittees revised their approach to prioritize the development of foundational data standards that would enable interoperability among existing registries and related systems before considering the development of a DER Entity Registry.

At the most recent meeting in September, the subcommittees continued developing the data elements proposed for inclusion in the DER registry interoperability standards. Discussions addressed the identification of additional data fields, data privacy and anonymization concerns, and access controls and user roles, as well as considerations involving DER operating characteristics, asset warranties, and telemetry communications. Following these discussions, the WEQ and RMQ BPS finalized a retail-focused draft standard consisting of principles, definitions, model business practices, and a data dictionary intended to facilitate interoperability among existing DER registries. The draft standard was subsequently posted for informal industry comment, which concluded on October 23, 2026.

At the next joint BPS meeting, which is scheduled for November 13, 2026, participants will review the comments submitted to consider whether revisions to the draft standard are needed, and may potentially vote on a recommendation.

NAESB Courses:

NAESB continues to offer educational training opportunities and webinars to help industry participants, regulators, and stakeholders informed of the ongoing developments at NAESB to support the industry.

As part of this effort, NAESB hosted its second Understanding the NAESB Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) Contracts webinar of the year on September 17, 2026. The course provided industry attendees with a comprehensive review of the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas, and supporting addendums related to Canadian, Mexican, Renewable Natural Gas, and Certified Gas transactions.

NAESB also held its annual NAESB 101 Webinar on October 15, 2026. This free course introduced an overview of NAESB, our standards development process, relationships with government agencies and other external bodies, and current activities supporting the wholesale and retail gas and electric industries.

NAESB plans to offer additional webinars and training courses throughout 2027. Information on upcoming sessions will be posted on the NAESB meeting calendar and the Primers and Training Courses page of the NAESB website as schedules and course details are finalized.

WGQ and RMQ Cybersecurity:

At its most recent meeting on November 5, 2026, the WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) Subcommittee voted out a recommendation addressing automated high-volume traffic on interstate natural gas pipeline informational postings websites. The recommendation is currently out for formal industry comment, which closes on December 1, 2026, and will be considered by the WGQ Executive Committee at its December 8, 2026, meeting.

The recommendation was developed to support Standards Request R26007, submitted by several pipelines in response to concerns that increasing automated traffic could affect website performance, responsiveness, and availability, potentially limiting access to posted information for users. Since May, the WGQ EDM Subcommittee has evaluated potential approaches to managing excessive automated activity while maintaining public access to pipeline information.

A key consideration throughout these discussions has been the requirement under 18 CFR 284.12(b)(3) that pipeline informational postings websites remain publicly accessible without passwords or other restrictions that could impede access. Participants also examined potential impacts on gas-electric coordination, as ISOs/ RTOs rely on automated data retrieval from these websites for operational coordination and reliability-related activities. To address these concerns, the subcommittee has coordinated with members of the ISO and RTO Council (IRC) to consider how potential changes could affect existing systems and processes.

During the October subcommittee meeting, participants, including FERC staff and IRC members, reviewed four potential approaches to managing excessive automated traffic while preserving access to information used for situational awareness and reliability purposes. Following these discussions and consideration of informal feedback from FERC staff and the operational needs of ISOs/RTOs, the subcommittee agreed to develop standards that would support the pipelines' implementing of active website controls, such as traffic throttling, rate limiting, connection queuing, and IP whitelisting. Rather than prescribing a particular method, the proposed standard would allow individual pipelines to select appropriate controls based on their systems and operational needs.

Separately, on September 10, 2026, membership ratified a recommendation to update the WGQ Cybersecurity Manual by requiring multi-factor authentication for users accessing pipeline customer activities websites. The recommendation was developed following the annual review of the Cybersecurity and Quadrant Electronic Delivery Mechanism (QEDM) standards, which was jointly undertaken by the WGQ EDM and RMQ Information Requirements and Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittees (IR-TEIS). The final action was incorporated into WGQ Version 4.1, which was released on September 25, 2026, and is also available on the NAESB website.

Helpful links on the NAESB Home Page:

- NAESB Bulletin
- What's Hot
- NAESB Standards and Implementation

NERC Coordination:

NAESB and NERC continue to coordinate areas of overlapping commercial and reliability considerations for the wholesale electric industry to ensure that WEQ Business Practice Standards and NERC Reliability Standards remain aligned. As part of this effort, the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee (SRS) monitors NERC's ongoing standards development activities to identify potential impacts on NAESB standards and opportunities for coordination.

On August 31, 2026, the WEQ SRS reviewed NERC's draft 2027–2029 Reliability Standards Development Plan (RSDP), which identifies upcoming standards development priorities and activities in connection with NERC's Modernization of Standards, Processes, and Procedures (MSPP) initiative. Under the MSPP, NERC is revising its standards development processes and project priorities, focusing on certain high-priority projects while others may be deferred or restarted following implementation. Based on its review, the subcommittee identified several areas for continued monitoring, including FERC Order No. 901, inverter-based resources, cybersecurity, and computational loads.

Among these projects, efforts related to FERC Order No. 901 could potentially affect the DER registry interoperability standards currently being developed jointly by the WEQ and RMQ Business Practices Subcommittees (BPS), as mentioned in the Distributed Energy Resources Activities section of this bulletin. The WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee is also following project 2023-09 Risk Management for Third-Party Cloud Services, to determine whether any resulting changes to NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards could affect the NAESB Public Key Infrastructure framework or other cybersecurity related requirements.

The WEQ SRS is also reviewing developments related to project 2026-02 Computational Loads. At its October meeting, the subcommittee discussed how proposed standards in this area could affect net scheduled interchange (NSI) calculations and entity registration categories. To further assess these potential impacts, the WEQ SRS agreed to coordinate with the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee to determine whether changes to the OASIS Business Practice Standards may be needed.

NAESB Board and Board Committees Update:

NAESB held its Board of Directors Meeting, Meeting of the Members, and Strategic Session on September 3, 2026, which included presentations on emerging issues affecting the energy industry. Guest speakers included former NAESB General Counsel and an energy attorney at Morrison Foerster, Jay Costan, who provided a presentation on large loads and data center demand, followed by Dr. Ken Medlock, Senior Director of the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University's Baker Institute, who provided a presentation regarding the geopolitical implications of developments in Ukraine and Iran for global oil markets.

In addition to the presentations, the Board of Directors conducted its regular business, including a review of the membership and financial status, ongoing standards development activities for all three quadrants, and the activities underway by NAESB's Board committees. The Board Strategy Committee also asked for input regarding activities that NAESB should undertake to address new issues or evolving industry conditions through standards work. As noted in the previous issue of the bulletin, the Board Strategy Committee decided to seek input during the Board of Directors meeting instead of conducting its bi-annual industry survey. Based on discussions, the Board Strategy Committee plans to meet in November to review the 2027 Annual Plan and discuss potential AI deployment guardrails in the energy industry.

Prior to the Board of Directors meeting, the NAESB Board Revenue Committee met on August 27, 2026 to review communication efforts, the publication schedules, and revenue generation.

Looking ahead, NAESB's final Board of Directors meeting of 2026 is scheduled for December 10, 2026. During the meeting, the Board of Directors will consider and vote to finalize the proposed 2027 Annual Plans, review any recommendations from the Board Strategy Committee regarding the NAESB Strategic Plan, and consider the 2027 budget. In preparation for the meeting, the Board Strategy Committee is scheduled to meet on November 20, 2026, followed by the Board Revenue Committee meeting scheduled for December 3, 2026.

NAESB Quadrant Membership Analysis:

Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ)	111
Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ)	32
Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ)	125

WGQ BPS Activities:

On August 11, 2026, the WGQ Executive Committee adopted two recommendations developed by the WGQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) in response to Standards Requests proposing additional data elements for existing WGQ Business Practice Standards.

The first recommendation, developed in response to Standards Request R26005, proposed adding four new data elements, Swing Contract, Swing Location, Swing Limit, and Swing Percentage, to the Pre-determined Allocation standards. The addition of these elements are intended to help pipelines to resolve ending daily imbalances at delivery points by swinging quantities through storage contract injections or withdrawals during the allocation process under a confirming party's operating balancing agreement (OBA). The second recommendation, developed to support Standards Request R26006, proposed adding data elements supporting international SWIFT banking codes in the invoicing and payment remittance standards to facilitate accurate payment routing.

Both recommendations were ratified by membership and have been incorporated into WGQ Version 4.1, which was released on September 25, 2026.

Additionally, the WGQ BPS approved a recommendation addressing potential revisions to the WGQ Nominations Related Standards under 2026 WGQ Annual Plan Item 4.a. Since beginning its review in March, the subcommittee has examined the implementation and usage classifications of existing nomination data elements across electronic bulletin board (EBB) and electronic data interchange (EDI) systems to determine whether certain elements should be retained or deprecated.

As part of this review, the WGQ BPS issued a request for informal industry comments in July to gather feedback on an initial list of potential nomination data elements that could be deprecated, including which of the elements remain in use and whether removal from standards could raise operational concerns. During its September meeting, the subcommittee reviewed the comments received and refined the proposed list accordingly. Based on industry feedback, participants agreed to retain several elements that remain necessary for operational purposes, including those related to associated receipt and delivery locations and Canadian export declarations.

Subsequently, the WGQ BPS approved am instruction to the joint WGQ Information Requirements and Technical (IR/Tech) Subcommittees to designate the identified nomination data elements for removal in a future standards release and to review other WGQ standards to determine whether any elements could be designated for removal

The WGQ IR/Tech Subcommittees met on October 22, 2026, and drafted a memo back to the WGQ BPS after review. The WGQ BPS will consider the joint WGQ IR/Tech Subcommittees' feedback at its next meeting, which is scheduled for December 9, 2026.

WEQ Cybersecurity:

Cybersecurity continues to be a key focus of NAESB's standards development activities, with ongoing efforts to support secure electronic communications, address emerging cybersecurity threats, and maintain consistency with applicable FERC orders and NERC Reliability Standards.

As part of these efforts, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee completed its annual review of the cybersecurity-related standards and determined that no revisions were necessary at this time. The resulting no-action recommendation was approved by the WEQ Executive Committee on October 21, 2026.

Separately, the WEQ Executive Committee adopted a recommendation for a cybersecurity vulnerability disclosure contract addendum and an accompanying frequently asked questions (FAQ) document. Intended to be used with procurement contracts, the addendum would facilitate more timely vendor notifications of identified vulnerabilities and communication of mitigation instructions.

The contract addendum was jointly developed by the WEQ Cybersecurity and Business Practices Subcommittees (BPS) as part of an annual plan item supporting the wholesale electric industry's implementation of FERC Order No. 912, NERC Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards, and broader supply chain risk management efforts involving the Bulk Electric System. The addendum establishes standardized provisions for cybersecurity vulnerability reporting between manufacturers, vendors, and critical infrastructure operators that address the types and scope of known vulnerabilities, affected products and services, vendor reporting timelines, and minimum requirements for remediation and compensation.

In developing the addendum, participants reviewed existing regulatory frameworks and industry guidance on vulnerability and incident reporting, including applicable NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) requirements for supply chain cybersecurity risk management. Discussion focused on refining the detailed concepts that could help streamline identification of relevant software vulnerabilities and help ensure that vendors provide necessary information.

The WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee and WEQ BPS voted out the recommendation on September 15, 2026, and received five sets of comments during the formal industry comment period. Following review of the comments, the subcommittee revised the proposed addendum and FAQ document as late comments, and the revised recommendation was presented to the WEQ Executive Committee on October 21, 2026. Due to insufficient votes to make a decision, the recommendation was sent out for notational ballot and adopted by the WEQ Executive Committee on October 30, 2026. The recommendation is currently awaiting member ratification, which closes on December 1, 2026. If ratified, the contract addendum and accompanying FAQ document will be incorporated into the upcoming version of the WEQ Business Practice Standards.

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) for additional information.*

WEQ Activities Supporting OASIS and e-Tag Transactions:

On October 30, 2026, the WEQ Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to revise the WEQ-004 Coordinate Interchange Business Practice Standards to include a standardized methodology for calculating integrated hourly values applicable in interchange scheduling. The recommendation was developed by the WEQ Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee (CISS) after reviews by the Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS), and Open Access Same-Time Information Systems (OASIS) Subcommittee, reflecting the widespread use of integrated values across the wholesale electric industry, including for transmission loading relief and modeling.

The calculation of integrated hourly under WEQ-004 involves a multi-step process, which includes rounding fractional values to the nearest whole megawatt hour (MWh). Variations in when rounding is applied and the number of decimal places retained can produce different results, potentially creating discrepancies in interchange scheduling. To address these inconsistencies, the CISS evaluated several rounding methods, considering their industry use, accuracy, complexity of standardization, and ease of implementation. Based on its review, the subcommittee determined that rounding on a per e-Tag basis would best meet the industry's interchange scheduling needs and developed a recommendation accordingly.

Two sets of comments were received during the formal comment period, and the WEQ Executive Committee considered the comments and recommendation during its meeting on October 21, 2026. Because an insufficient number of votes were cast during the meeting, the recommendation was subsequently approved by notational ballot on October 30, 2026. The recommendation is currently out for membership ratification and will conclude on December 1, 2026

In addition to the WEQ-004 revisions, the WEQ Executive Committee approved three recommendations developed by the OASIS Subcommittee through notational ballots on October 30, 2026. These recommendations address limitations in OASIS data fields and updates to existing business practices. All three recommendations are currently out for membership ratification until December 1, 2026.

The first recommendation, developed in response to Standards Request R26002, proposed to expand OASIS price fields to six characters to accommodate increasing transmission pricing values. The proposed revision is intended to provide greater flexibility as transmission pricing practices evolve in response to changing market conditions, including the growth of large loads and the integration of distributed energy resources (DERs), which may increase the use of alternative units of measure for transmission rates.

The second recommendation, addressing Standards Request R26004, proposes to increase the character length of the Source and Sink data elements in the OASIS nodes from 14 to 25 characters. The request noted that under the current character limit, transmission point names are abbreviated, making it challenging to identify facilities by its common facility names and creating inconsistencies with names registered in the NAESB Electric Industry Registry (EIR). The proposed expansion is expected to improve the accuracy and consistency of transmission point identification while reducing potential errors and supporting operational efficiency.

The third recommendation proposes modifications to the WEQ OASIS related standards, including removal of outdated references to NERC and revisions concerning the availability of capacity relinquishment as an action for transmission service providers. The recommendation also proposes adding a new Resell Redirect Limit Flag to help users identify whether a Transmission Service Request is subject to Dynegy limitations and protections and whether those limitations have expired. This feature is anticipated to improve transparency regarding the status of existing protections without changing the underlying redirect and resale processes.

All four recommendations, if ratified, will be included in the upcoming publication of WEQ Version 004.1.

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.

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

NAESB Filings:

September 25, 2026 - NAESB Report for Submittal to the Commission on WGQ Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, Version 4.1 (Docket No. RM96-1)

NAESB Press Releases, Notices, and Correspondence:

September 30, 2026 - NAESB Publishes Wholesale Gas Quadrant Business Practice Standards, Version 4.1