##### February 15, 2024

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, Director, Wholesale Electric Quadrant

**RE: Joint WEQ/WGQ/RMQ Gas-Electric Coordination Effort**

In December, the NAESB Board of Directors created a three-part annual plan item, jointly assigned to the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ Business Practice Subcommittees (BPS) to support the development of gas-electric coordination standards. Per the direction of the NAESB Board, the joint subcommittees are to review and modify the NAESB Gas/Electric Coordination Business Practice Standards and any corresponding standards to improve communication among the operators of production facilities (producers, gatherers, processors) and pipeline and storage facilities and the timely dissemination of this coordinated communication from the these facilities to and from relevant natural gas infrastructure entities, BAs, shippers, and end-use customers (i.e., local distribution companies) as needed to enhance situational awareness during extreme cold weather events without endangering sensitive commercial information. This includes business practice standards for the communication of (1) information about operational issues (e.g. location, estimated duration of outage) to and from BAs, LDCs, and shippers in anticipation of critical notices, OFOs or force majeure notices during extreme weather and (2) aggregated volume data or confirmed scheduled quantities for key upstream receipt points on the pipeline system during extreme cold weather events. The NAESB Board of Directors created the annual plan items in response to a recommendation by FERC and NERC in the Inquiry into Bulk-Power System Operations During December 2022 Winter Storm Elliott asking NAESB to convene natural gas infrastructure entities, electric grid operators, and local distribution companies to identify improvements in communication during extreme cold weather events to enhance situational awareness.

The kick-off meeting for the effort was held on January 31, 2024 with over 100 individuals participating. As part of the meeting, the Joint BPS co-chairs asked for initial comments from participants on potential areas to explore for standards development. A number of ideas were put forth, including greater consistency in data sharing practices, the inclusion of additional information, such as locational data, to help assess the potential impact of a critical notice and operational flow order issued by a natural gas pipeline, tools to support more efficient data aggregation, sharing forecasting information between natural gas pipelines and local distribution companies, new coordination and communication paths, and the identification of the types of information and advanced notices from upstream entities that would be beneficial for electric market participants. For the meeting on February 15, 2024, participants were asked to provide additional information on the topics identified during the kick-off.

At the next meeting, the Joint BPS Chairs anticipate presentations will be provided by the NAESB WGQ Pipeline Segment as well as Argonne National Laboratory. The NAESB WGQ Pipeline Segment presentation is expected to overview the interstate natural gas pipeline system and applicable regulatory requirements and NAESB Business Practice Standards. The presentation from Argonne National Laboratories will offer information regarding the lab’s NGinsight tool, which collects data made publicly available by pipelines and provides a near real-time assimilation of a large portion of the natural gas pipeline system. The joint subcommittee leadership will hold meetings approximately every two weeks, with additional conference calls currently scheduled for February 29 and March 5, 2024.