##### June 5, 2023

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, Director, Wholesale Gas and Retail Markets Quadrants

**RE: Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) and Green Button Update**

In early June, the ESPI Task Force, chaired by Don Coffin of the Green Button Alliance, met to continue discussion on an annual plan item calling for a review of the cybersecurity aspects within the REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices and to make any necessary changes. The ESPI Task Force held two previous meetings to discuss this item and made initial revisions to the model business practices, deleting references to TLS 1.2 (RFC5846) and updating the link to and version of the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) publication. Subsequently, a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cybersecurity team reviewed the revised ESPI and provided additional feedback. During the June meeting, the task force participants delayed voting on the draft recommendation in order to seek additional clarification from cybersecurity subject matter experts on cipher suites that are compatible with TLS 1.3. During the next ESPI Task Force meeting, the participants will continue to discuss cybersecurity within the ESPI Model Business Practices. All interested parties are welcome to join the meeting.

Also in June, the ESPI Task Force approved a minor correction submitted from the Green Button Alliance (GBA) that proposed the deletion of a phrase in the REQ.21.4.2 Energy Usage Information Model and the REQ.21.4.3 Retail Customer Information Model ESPI Model Business Practices in order to indicate that certain stereotype representations are navigable. The minor correction and, if approved, the recommendation for the annual plan item discussed above, will be reviewed by the RMQ Executive Committee during its next meeting along with any comments received on the items.

Green Button is based on the NAESB Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices first published in the fall of 2011 and updated from time-to-time to meet gas, electric, and water industry needs. The Green Button initiative is an industry-led effort that responds to a White House call-to-action to provide utility customers with easy and secure access to their own energy usage data in a consumer-friendly and computer-friendly format. ESPI makes this possible by providing a standardized XML format for the customer’s energy usage information and an exchange protocol that enables the automatic transfer of customer usage information from a utility to a third-party, after customer authorization is attained. The Green Button Alliance is a non-profit organization that works to advance the Green Button initiative, through marketing, education, testing, and certification.