STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Parallel Flow Visualization - Transmission Loading Relief (PFV–TLR) Standards

Development: NERC and NAESB have been working closely together to create a more efficient and transparent approach for managing transmission congestion in the Eastern Interconnection. The PFV–TLR project, known as the Generation to Load (GTL) project at NERC, addresses three issues: (1) the use of static data by the Interchange Distribution Calculator (IDC) in its curtailment calculations, (2) the lack of visualization as to the source and magnitude of parallel flows during congestion periods, and (3) the lack of visualization of generation-to-load priorities during firm curtailment.

In November, the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) had reached a compromise decision on an Interim Solution intended to facilitate the initiation of a PFV–TLR field test of these new data requirements. At its February meeting, the NERC Operating Reliability Subcommittee (ORS) voted to suspend the scheduled field test, which had been in progress since November, until the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) arrived at a permanent solution.

The subcommittee continues to make significant progress toward this goal, as only two options remain: the Flowgate Allocation Work Paper and the Hybrid method. The participants’ full and frank discussions have resulted in an increased understanding of the precise structural differences which exist in electric systems around the country. As this appreciation has deepened, certain key issues have been identified and are being discussed in earnest; it is expected that this fuller understanding of market and non-market systems will help the industry arrive at a mutually-agreed PFV–TLR process.

Among other key topics, the group is discussing the possibility of identifying and addressing the issues underlying seams agreements that might be used to govern shared flowgates. As the group works to identify which topics are conducive to standardization, it has given particular consideration to both the selling of transmission service and the curtailment of transmission service.

Until the key issues under discussion are resolved, the exact form of the permanent solution is being held in abeyance. However, there is a certain overlap between the seams agreement discussions and the exact form of the permanent solution.

For example, the group has recently discussed whether credit for redispatch should be considered a requirement under the Hybrid option. In addition, the group has touched on whether the two-tiered firm curtailment methodology might be effective in addressing over-allocated flowgates. For the moment, the group has decided to suspend consideration of a two-tiered firm curtailment methodology to incentivize the formation of seams agreements. Among the additional considerations under discussion are whether a firm resource carries with it firm rights throughout an entire transmission provider’s system and whether NERC’s MOD standards have direct bearing on the selling of transmission service.

The subcommittee leadership hopes that these and related enquiries will encourage the formation of consensus around a single industry-wide process during 2Q 2011.

For more information, please go to (WEQ 2010 Annual Plan Item 1.a.i Final Action, WEQ BPS Web Page, NERC Press Release, NERC Change Order 283, NAESB Comments to FERC Hybrid Option Work Paper, Flowgate Allocation Work Paper), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the distribution list.
Wholesale Electric Service Across Multiple Transmission Systems (SAMTS): Currently, a customer hoping to move energy across multiple provider systems could be left with a financial obligation to pay for committed capacity on one system without knowing whether capacity is available on the other provider systems needed to complete a transaction. This is partly due to the fact that providers make capacity allocations independently of one another (and often according to different decision-making timelines), partly due to strict confirmation deadlines, and partly due to the fact that such a point-to-point reservation may not be rescinded or modified once confirmed. In Order No. 890, the Commission required Transmission Providers to work through NAESB to develop standards addressing this quandary.

In broad terms, the mechanism under development requires that each affected provider independently evaluate its portion of the linked request, with the opportunity for a true-up by the customer once all evaluations are completed. Thus, after submitting and monitoring requests on multiple systems, the customer would communicate true-up information to each of the affected providers. As network integration transmission service (NITS) on OASIS is still in the final stages of development, the SAMTS project focuses exclusively on the FERC-approved process in existence, namely for point-to-point transmission service. The network service portion of the SAMTS process will be included in the final draft NITS standards.

The full WEQ OASIS subcommittee began developing the business standards to enable SAMTS in early January and have since met for over 126 hours over the course of 18 meetings. Thanks to the of numerous industry volunteers, the subcommittee has made significant progress on developing this complex process. When published, WEQ-000 will contain the glossary and list of acronyms, WEQ-001 will contain the Business Practice Standards, WEQ-002 will contain Technical Specifications, WEQ-003 will contain the Data Dictionary, and WEQ-013 will contain the Implementation Guide.

Currently, the entire SAMTS project is out for an informal industry comment period ending on April 29. The subcommittee plans to discuss and incorporate all comments received at its meeting hosted by ACES Power in Carmel, IN on May 3-5. Once the subcommittee has approved the final version of the standards, the SAMTS project will be sent out for a formal comment period to begin in May.

The FERC Progress Report, filed with the Commission in early March, provides additional detail, as does the draft recommendation sent out for informal comments. Through the tireless efforts of subcommittee volunteers, the subcommittee seems likely to meet the SAMTS commitments it made during this filing, despite the aggressive timelines involved. NAESB would particularly like to thank the co-chairs of the subcommittee, Alan Pritchard of Duke Energy, Paul Sorenson of OATI, and JT Wood of Southern Company; without their expertise, commitment to excellence, and dedicated leadership, the project would not be where it is today.

For more information, please go to (SAMTS Progress Report filed with FERC, Service Across Multiple Transmission Systems (SAMTS) Draft Standards or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) for additional information.

NAESB REQ Data Privacy Task Force: The Retail Electric Quadrant has created a new Task Force reporting to the Smart Grid Standards Development Subcommittee on PAP 10 to address request R10012. The request calls for the development of model business practices that will set forth standards for the release of consumer information to third parties and the privacy policies and practices those third parties should employ. This request was submitted by Reliant Energy, with the support of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and has garnered a lot of attention from state utility commissions. The task force is co-chaired by Robin Lunt of NARUC and Christine Wright of the Texas Public Utility Commission. The first meeting was held in conjunction with the Winter NARUC meeting in Washington, D.C. on February 16, 2011 and the Task Force has continued to meet weekly since its inception.

Currently, the Task Force is in the process of reviewing the multitude of reports that have been published on the subject by state commissions, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, NIST and the FCC, among others. The goal of this review is to identify common themes and elements that can seed development of a Model Business Practice. The Task Force is proceeding according to a very aggressive timeline and hopes to complete its recommendation for the subcommittee during 2Q 2011.

For more information, please go to (Request R10012, REQ Data Privacy Draft Recommendation (April 19, 2011), REQ Data Privacy Webpage), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the distribution list.
**Smart Grid Activities:** The Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP), formed under the auspices of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), asked for NAESB’s assistance in developing four of the existing 17 priority action plans, or PAPs. The Board formed a Smart Grid Standards Development Subcommittee to address the first three: PAP03 (Common Price Communication Model); PAP04 (Common Scheduling Mechanism); and, PAP09 (Standard Demand Response and Distributed Energy Resources Signals). The group, which reports to both the REQ and WEQ Executive Committees (ECs), agreed to develop the work in two phases: Phase I would develop use cases and initial data requirement standards, and Phase II would create expanded data requirement standards.

During the February WEQ and REQ EC meetings, members reviewed and voted on the 8 Phase II Recommendations (4 wholesale and 4 retail) to support PAPs 3, 4 and 9. The REQ recommendations were approved with no votes in opposition and the WEQ recommendations were distributed for a notational ballot period and subsequently approved without opposition on February 18, 2011. All eight recommendations were ratified by the REQ and WEQ membership in mid-March and are now Final Actions.

After the December Board meeting, the subcommittee held a special meeting with the chairs of the OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) Technical Committees responsible for taking the use cases and data requirements developed at NAESB and creating the resulting schemas and specifications. The OASIS Technical chairs reviewed their draft specifications and explained how the NAESB recommendations were leveraged as part of their work products.

Also, the previously-ratified Energy Usage Information Model developed by NAESB in support of PAP 10, has been fully vetted through the NIST/SGIP process and has been added to the catalog of standards endorsed by that group. With this work complete, NAESB is happy to report that its obligations to NIST/SGIP related to PAPs 3, 4, 9 and 10 have been satisfied. All of the final actions developed by the NAESB smart grid groups will be filed with the FERC in April and made available to NARUC and state commissions in the same manner as all other NAESB standards.

In a separate but related development activity, the REQ Energy Services Provider Interface Task Force has continued to meet every two weeks in an effort to develop a recommendation in response to REQ AP Item 9.e (the standardization of the Open ADE specification — a specification that describes communications between utilities, customers and 3rd party service providers). The Task Force is on target to complete a draft recommendation and vote it out of the Task Force for REQ Executive Committee review during 2Q 2011.

For more information, please go to (PAP03, PAP04, PAP09, PAP10, WEQ PAP03 Final Action, WEQ PAP04 Final Action, WEQ PAP09 Final Action, WEQ PAP10 Final Action, WEQ PAPs 03/09 Master Data Elements Final Action, REQ PAP03 Final Action, REQ PAPs 03/09 Master Data Elements Final Action, Retail PAP04 Final Action, Retail PAP09 Final Action), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the relevant distribution lists.

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**NAESB Primers and Training Courses:**

July 13-14, 2011—WGQ Business Practice Standards: Updates and Changes Version 2.0 Course to be held in Houston, TX at the NAESB Offices, 801 Travis, Suite 1675, Houston, TX.

October 5-6, 2011—Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Course to be held in Houston, TX at the NAESB Offices, 801 Travis, Suite 1675, Houston, TX.

Please monitor the NAESB Primers and Training Courses web page for additional information and scheduling of upcoming courses.
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Demand-Side Management and Energy Efficiency: The Demand-Side Management efforts at NAESB are divided into two areas: Demand Response (DR) and Energy Efficiency (EE), each with a wholesale and retail component. DR efforts have been focused on creating a uniform methodology to measure reduction in energy usage during a demand response event. On April 15, 2010, FERC issued its final rule adopting the WEQ Phase I DR Measurement and Verification (M&V) standards. In the final rule, the Commission noted that NAESB was best suited to develop the Phase II standards, noting that “additional substantive standards would appear beneficial in creating transparent and consistent measurement and verification of demand response products and services in wholesale electric markets. The measurement and verification standards needed to accomplish this goal should be a focus of NAESB’s Phase II M&V Standards development efforts.” The Commission also set a one-year deadline to either complete the Phase II standards, or report the progress made in the Phase II efforts; thanks to the tireless efforts of dedicated members, NAESB is pleased to report that this effort is complete.

The Wholesale DR recommendation was discussed and voted on by the WEQ Executive Committee (EC) during the February 1 WEQ EC meeting. The recommendation passed both the WEQ EC vote and membership ratification. The Retail DR work group has also completed its own Phase II efforts. The Retail Electric Quadrant (REQ) EC approved the recommendation at the February 2 REQ EC meeting and passed membership ratification in late March. NAESB will send the model business practices to NARUC for distribution to any interested state commissions.

The EE efforts at NAESB develop standards to measure and verify reductions in energy and demand from energy efficiency in both wholesale and retail markets, including standards to measure and verify energy reductions that are made to comply with either a Renewable Portfolio Standard that included energy efficiency, or a stand-alone Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. The Wholesale EE work group completed its EE M&V recommendation and voted on the recommendation in mid-March. The vote was inconclusive, so a notational ballot was sent to the absent WEQ EC members. The notational ballots are due April 8, 2011. Once the WEQ EC approves the recommendation it will be sent out for a 30-day ratification period.

The Phase II DR standards and the EE standards will be submitted together to the FERC in April. The Retail EE group has compiled a large document with a lot of information for potential model business practices. A reorganization has been completed in an effort to improve the clarity of the document. During the work group’s upcoming conference calls, the group will be working to both finalize the language of the model business practices, and ensure the Retail and Wholesale glossaries conform with each other. It is anticipated that this effort will be finished in 2Q 2011.

Network Integration Transmission Services (NITS) Standards Development: The OASIS systems that manage the electronic scheduling of wholesale electricity were initially designed to support point-to-point transmission services. For several years, the WEQ OASIS subcommittee has been working diligently to establish standards permitting OASIS to accommodate network integration transmission service, or NITS, as mandated by FERC in Order No. 890. This effort has continued to require a significant time investment and has placed a premium on creative solutions. Once this project is complete, it is hoped that the marketplace will benefit greatly from increased uniformity and transparency for transmission services.

Currently, the subcommittee has completed its draft of WEQ-000, containing the glossary and list of acronyms, and WEQ-001, containing the network transmission service business practice standards. The draft business practice standards have already been vetted through several informal industry comment periods. They form the conceptual core of the NITS on OASIS project; their accomplishment is no mean feat. Since their finalization, the group has shifted its focus to the equally essential task of crafting technical standards to permit entities around the country to tie their specific systems into the new NITS framework.

To this end, technical teams are working diligently to complete the draft standards for WEQ-002 (containing the technical specifications), WEQ-003 (containing the data dictionary), and WEQ-013 (containing the implementation guide) to support the seamless implementation of the new business standards. No significant conceptual issues remain unresolved, but the effort to efficiently and accurately connect the business standards to data fields and templates and draft the implementation guide is ongoing. The stalwart subcommittee volunteers continue to meet regularly, and will likely continue to average 14 hours of meetings per week throughout the summer.

Once finalized by the subcommittee, the final draft version of WEQ-001, 002, 003, and 013 will be sent out for a final round of informal industry comments, currently targeted for July. During this comment window, the subcommittee hopes to provide a technical conference to deepen the industry’s understanding of the NITS on OASIS project and facilitate parties’ submission of comments. Although several rounds of informal comments have already occurred, the industry has never had an opportunity to comment on the entire set of proposed standards as a unit. After all comments received have been incorporated, the subcommittee will send the final draft standards out for a formal industry comment period prior to consideration by the WEQ EC.

For more information, please go to (FERC Final Rule - Order No. 676-E, Retail DR M&V Phase 2 Final Action, Wholesale DR M&V Phase 2 Final Action, Wholesale EE M&V Recommendation, Retail EE M&V Draft Recommendation), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the relevant distribution lists.
Advisory Committee: The NAESB Advisory Council held its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the winter NARUC meetings on February 12, 2011. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for the leaders of the industry to convene and discuss pressing issues that affect the entire industry. Among other topics, the group discussed NAESB’s potential involvement in developing energy reporting standards related to swaps, record keeping requirements for completed transactions, and information required in regulatory filings for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). The participants also discussed the recent rolling blackouts in Texas, which resulted in a reexamination of gas-electric coordination issues and may become a high priority standards development area for NAESB. The group agreed that if NAESB were to address gas-electric coordination issues, a large number of market players would need to be brought into the process from both the gas and electric industries.

During the meeting, Mr. Ellsworth was re-elected Chair of the Advisory Council and will serve through 2011. NAESB would like to warmly thank Mr. Ellsworth for his continued leadership.

For more information, please go to (Presentation Material- NAESB Review, 2011 Advisory Council Meeting Notes), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the distribution list.

Parliamentary Committee: At the request of the NAESB Board of Directors, the Parliamentary Committee met to discuss several issues identified during the December 9, 2010 Board meeting. The meeting took place on January 5, 2011 in Tampa, FL and resulted in several resolutions, including a proposed clarification to the NAESB Executive Committee notational balloting process, proposed modifications to the NAESB Operating Practice for the Standards Appeal Procedure and the creation of a new Process Appeal Procedure to be included in the NAESB Operating Practice. These resolutions were unanimously approved by the NAESB Managing Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors during the March 24, 2011 meeting. The resolutions will be incorporated into the NAESB Operating Practices, as appropriate. The Parliamentary Committee has scheduled a follow-up meeting in mid-April to continue discussions concerning potential modifications to the minor correction process and the possibility of allowing the organization to develop work products that do not rise to the level of standards.

NAESB Leadership Training: On February 24-25, 2011, NAESB hosted a mediation workshop titled “Multiparty Consensus Building Through Effective Leadership” in Las Vegas, NV. The workshop course was designed and led by Rick Miles, who served at FERC for 38 years and was instrumental in both bringing ADR to the Commission and ensuring its success. NAESB was very pleased that several dozen industry volunteers were able to take advantage of this opportunity by attending in person. By all accounts received, the participants found the workshop time well spent; several stated that they looked forward to implementing several of Mr. Miles’ approaches the following Monday. Steve Van Ausdall of Xtensible Solutions shared the following observation: “The negotiation workshop by Richard Miles was great! It offered valuable insight to NAESB leaders, improving our ability to build multiparty consensus on standards by focusing on identification of interests, and discovering options that provide mutual benefit.” NAESB would like to thank the many attendees, their organizations and, in particular, Mr. Miles for making this event such a success.

For more information, please go to (FERC ADR Newsletter at p.3), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the distribution list.

NAESB Retail Version 1.3 Publication: Over the past year, the Retail Quadrants have completed a huge amount of work. Although the NAESB Retail Model Business Practices (MBPs) Version 1.2 was released only 15 months previously, the Retail MBP Version 1.3 was released on March 31, 2011 reflecting the significant efforts of the participants in the subcommittees and working groups. The Retail publication includes MBPs for both the Retail Electric and Retail Gas Quadrants. This publication, Version 1.3, includes 14 Final Actions which introduce virtually thousands of new MBPs, many of which are outside of the competitive energy marketplace, which has historically been the Retail Quadrants’ focus.

A large portion of the new MBPs, 8 of the 14 Final Actions, respond to four Priority Action Plans assigned to NAESB by the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) which the President’s Administration had given the lead on nationwide Smart Grid activities. This effort was accomplished in close coordination with the WEQ and the resultant MBPs match the final WEQ Standards unless there was a specific industry-related reason to create a variance. The four Priority Action Plans covered (1) Common Product and Pricing Definitions, (2) Common Scheduling Mechanism for Energy Transactions, (3) Retail Standard Demand Response Signals, and (4) Energy Usage Information Model.

Another area covered by the new MBPs which is outside the competitive energy marketplace is the technical implementation of Customer Billing and Payment Notification via Uniform Electronic Transaction, which addresses electronic billing and payments. MBPs for Measurement & Verification (M&V) for Demand Response programs are also modified and expanded in this Version. These changes reflect the concerns expressed by the large number of parties who commented on the original set of MBPs. As in the Smart Grid context, the Retail Quadrant again worked closely with the WEQ in developing supporting M&V definitions; the definitions used by both WEQ and REQ are the same unless there was a specific industry-related reason to create a variance.

In the continuing expansion of the MBPs covering the Registration Agent model, a regional model, MBPs on Service Request, Disconnection and Reconnection were developed and included in this publication Version. Finally, in addition to an updated set of Process Flows for Billing and Payments and a revision of several definitions, a Users Guide for the Retail MBPs is included to explain what is covered and how to better understand what is included in all of the MBPs.

For more information, please go to (Retail Version 1.3 Webpage), or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) to be added to the distribution list.
Membership: As a result of the outreach made by the Board Resources Committee, chaired by Mr. R. Scott Brown of Exelon Corporation, NAESB has gained seven new members. We would like to welcome the following new members:

- Caerus Energy, LLC (WGQ, Services)
- Honeywell International, Inc. (REQ, End Users/Public Agencies)
- Nalcor Energy (WEQ, Marketers/Brokers, Fed/State/Prov)
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) (REQ, End Users/Public Agencies)
- PAA Natural Gas Storage, LLC (WGQ, Services)
- Vermont Public Service Board (WEQ, End Users, Regulator)
- Vermont Public Service Board (REQ, End Users/Public Agencies)

We want to thank the board members for their continued outreach to companies involved in demand side management (DSM), smart grid, wind and solar projects, as well as their colleagues who may not be NAESB members. Board members can forward contact information for prospective members to the NAESB office (Denise Rager at drager@naesb.org or 713-356-0060) for the distribution of membership information packets.

For more information, please go to (NAESB Members, Membership Information, or Membership Report) or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) for additional information.

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NAESB Quarterly/Segment Membership Analysis:

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For more information, please go to (Copyright, NAESB Material Order Form) or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) for additional information.