

NAESB Bulletin

November 2015 - January 2016 Volume 8, Issue 3

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2016 Calendar:

February

- 2/02 - WEQ BPS Conf. Call
- 2/03 - WEQ CISS Conf. Call
- 2/11 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 2/13 - NAESB Advisory Council Meeting (Washington, DC)
- 2/09 - Board Parliamentary Committee Conf. Call
- 2/18-19 - NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization Forum Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 2/22 - Retail Glossary Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/22 - Retail BPS Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/23 - Joint Retail BPS and Registration Agent Task Force Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/23-24 - WGO IR/Technical Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/23 - WEQ Executive Committee Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/24-25 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/24 - Retail IR/TEIS Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/24 - Retail Executive Committee Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/25 - WGO Executive Committee Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2/29 - WEQ CISS Conf. Call

March

- 3/01 - WEQ BPS Conf. Call
- 3/07-08 - NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization Forum Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 3/09 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 3/10 - NAESB Monthly Update Conf. Call
- 3/11 - NAESB Board Revenue Conf. Call
- 3/11 - NAESB Board Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Conf. Call
- 3/16 - NAESB Board Parliamentary Committee Conf. Call
- 3/16 - Retail IR/TEIS Conf. Call
- 3/21-22 - NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization Forum Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 3/21 - WEQ CISS Conf. Call
- 3/23 - Retail BPS Conf. Call
- 3/25 - Holiday - Good Friday (NAESB Closed)
- 3/29-31 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Dallas, TX)

April

- 4/05-06 - WGO IR/Technical Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/06 - Retail Leadership Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/06 - WEQ Leadership Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/06 - WGO Leadership Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/06 - NAESB Board Reception and Dinner with Guest Speaker (Houston, TX)
- 4/07 - NAESB Board of Directors Meeting (Houston, TX)
- 4/12 - WEQ BPS Conf. Call
- 4/14 - WEQ SRS Conf. Call
- 4/25-26 - Retail BPS Meeting (Carmel, IN)
- 4/26-27 - WGO IR/Technical Meeting (Carmel, IN)
- 4/26 - WEQ Executive Committee Meeting (Carmel, IN)
- 4/26 - WEQ Retail BPS Meeting (Carmel, IN)
- 4/27 - Retail IR/TEIS Meeting (Carmel, IN)
- 4/27-28 - WEQ OASIS Meeting (Carmel, IN)

RMQ Net Metering Model Business Practices Development: On January 20, 2016, the Retail Business Practices Subcommittee (RMQ BPS) voted out a recommendation for Book 11 as part of 2016 RMQ Annual Plan Item 1.a and 2016 RMQ Annual Plan Item 3.a.i – Customer Enrollment, Drop and Account Information Change Using a Registration Agent. A milestone in the retail effort to develop net metering model business practices, the completion of Book 11 also serves as a lynchpin for the Version 3.1 publication of the NAESB RMQ Model Business Practices, expected in the first quarter of 2016. The recommendation has been posted for a thirty day formal industry comment period which will conclude on February 18, 2016. During its February meeting, the RMQ Executive Committee will review the recommendation and any comments received.

The RMQ Information Requirements and Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee (IR/TEIS) and the RMQ BPS have developed the Model Business Practices and Technical Implementation for several retail books as part of the Retail Net Metering effort. The modifications to RXQ.3 – Billing and Payments in Competitive Energy Markets Model Business Practices, RXQ.8 – Retail Customer Information Model Business Practices, and RXQ.10 – Retail Customer Enrollment, Drop, and Account Information Change Model Business Practices have been approved and ratified by the NAESB membership.

As part of 2015 RMQ Annual Plan Item 4, the RMQ IR/TEIS will continue to develop Data Dictionaries and Technical Implementation to support the Retail Net Metering Model Business Practices. The subcommittee has completed the technical implementation recommendation for RXQ.3 and anticipates that RXQ.8 will be completed during the first quarter of 2016. The completion dates for the technical implementation in RXQ.10 and RXQ.11 also fall within 2016.

Keeping in mind the divergent net metering policies and implementation plans across the industry, the scope of the NAESB Retail Net Metering effort is limited to providing metering data required by Market Participants in competitive energy markets in jurisdictions where their charges to Retail Customers account for Retail Net Metering arrangements. The next RMQ

BPS face-to-face meeting will be hosted by Salt River Project in Phoenix, AZ on February 22-23, 2016. The RMQ IR/TEIS will hold a face-to-face meeting on February 24, 2016 hosted by Salt River Project in Phoenix, AZ. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

For more information, please go to [2015 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [RMQ BPS Page](#), [RMQ Glossary Subcommittee Page](#), [RMQ IR TEIS Page](#), [Version 3.1 Publication Schedule](#), [Recommendation for Book 11](#), [Attachment 1: Revised Book 11 Model Business Practices \(Redlined\)](#), [Attachment 2: Revised Book 11 Model Business Practices \(Clean\)](#), [Attachment 3: Revised Book 11 Process Flows](#), [January 20, 2016 RMQ BPS Draft Minutes](#), [Request for Comments](#), [February 24, 2016 RMQ Executive Committee Announcement](#), [Final Action for Book 3 \(MBPs\)](#), [Final Action for Book 3 \(Process Flows\)](#), [Final Action for Book 8](#) and [Final Action for Book 10](#).

NAESB Advisory Council Meeting: On Saturday, February 13, 2016, the annual NAESB Advisory Council meeting will take place from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Eastern at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th Street, Washington, DC. Led by Bruce Ellsworth, Chairman of the Advisory Council, the discussion will focus on several topics including, FERC's actions related to gas and electric coordination, efficient utilization of the increased data resulting from the implementation of smart grid enhancements, and cybersecurity. Additionally, the council will discuss other industry challenges that may impact the organization in the future, such as the increased reliance on renewable generation and the activities of the Environmental Protection Agency.

A reception will follow the conclusion of the meeting. As several NARUC meetings end at the same time as the NAESB Advisory Council meeting, interested parties who were unable to participate in the Advisory Council meeting are welcome to join reception. Please note that this event is not sponsored by NARUC nor is it a part of the NARUC Winter Committee Meetings agenda. However, if you are considering attending the NARUC meeting, NAESB welcomes you to attend this meeting as well.

For more information, please go to [Advisory Council Page](#), [Meeting Announcement](#), [Advisory Council Members](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 RMQ Annual Plan](#) and [2016 WGO Annual Plan](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT (*continued*)

FERC Order No. 809 and Gas-Electric Coordination: With the issuance of the April 16, 2015 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) Order No. 809, *Coordination of the Scheduling Processes of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines and Public Utilities* (Docket No. RM14-2-000), and the subsequent FERC Order on Rehearing issued on September 17, 2015 (Docket No. RM14-2-001), the NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization Forum (the Forum) has been reactivated to consider the requests of the Commission regarding electronic scheduling, as part of 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 7.a and 2016 WGQ Annual Plan Item 3.a. An organizational conference call, chaired by Terry Thorn and Dr. Susan Tierney, was held on January 25, 2016. During the call, the participants reviewed administrative items such as the Forum meeting schedule, a request for presentations, the purpose of the upcoming meetings, and the means for participation. As previously noticed and noted during the meeting, the Forum is seeking presentations to initiate discussion on electronic scheduling. All presentations submitted to NAESB will be considered by the Forum through a series of meetings beginning the week of February 15th, 2016. Subsequent face-to-face meetings have been scheduled for the week of March 7, 2016 and the week of March 21, 2016. The results of the Forum meetings will be presented to the NAESB Board of Directors during its April 2016 meeting, and a status report including the direction determined by the board will be filed with the FERC in mid-April.

As reported in the December 22, 2015 NAESB status report to the FERC (Docket No. RM14-2-000), the board met on December 10, 2015 to unanimously approve an amendment to the WEQ and WGQ annual plans. The amendment consists of footnotes containing four scoping directives for the Forum: (1) Provide a forum for industry education from both the natural gas and electric industries regarding gas-electric coordination specific to computerized scheduling, and confirmations including a streamlined confirmation process, if necessary; (2) Identify potential issues specific to computerized scheduling, and confirmations including a streamlined confirmation process, if necessary which could be based on the education provided in step; (3) Identify potential solutions to the issues identified in step 2; and (4) Identify potential schedules for standards development including status and progress reports to the board.

Initially created through a board notational ballot last June, 2016 WGQ Annual Plan Item 3.a and 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 7.a call for the review of Paragraph 107 in FERC Order No. 809 which requests that the gas and electric industry work through NAESB “to explore the potential for faster, computerized scheduling...” In light of the Commission’s request in the Order on Rehearing “to file such standards or a report on the development of such standards by October 17, 2016,” the board met in November and, through a subsequent notational ballot, modified the completion date of the 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 7.a and the 2016 WGQ Annual Plan Item 3.a from “TBD” to “2016.”

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2015 WGQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WGQ Annual Plan](#),

[Forum Page](#), [Forum Timeline \(Updated on 01/19/16\)](#), [Forum Distribution List](#), [January 12, 2016 Forum Request for Presentations](#), [April 16, 2015 FERC Order No. 809](#), [September 17, 2015 Order on Rehearing](#), [Announcement and Agenda for the January 25, 2016 Organizational Call](#), [Forum Timeline \(Updated on January 19\)](#), [December 22, 2015 NAESB Status Report to FERC](#), [December 10, 2015 Board Draft Minutes](#), [June 1, 2015 Board Working Session Final Minutes](#), [June Board Notational Ballot](#), [Comments on June Board Notational Ballot from D. Field](#), [Comments on June Board Notational Ballot from J. Peress](#), [June Board Notational Ballot Results](#), [August 4, 2015 NAESB Update to the FERC](#), [November 5, 2015 Board Final Minutes](#), [November Board Notational Ballot](#), [Work Paper Submitted by S. Munson](#) and [November Board Notational Ballot Results](#).

Demand-Side Management and Energy Efficiency (DSM-EE)

Update: On January 25, 2016, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its ruling on *FERC v. Electric Power Supply Association* (EPSA). The decision upholds the FERC demand response regulations in FERC Order No. 745. In the majority opinion, the Supreme Court first undertook a three part analysis to hold that the Federal Power Act “provides FERC with the authority to regulate wholesale market operators’ compensation of demand response bids.” First, the Court confirmed that the practices at issue in the case directly affect wholesale rates. Second, the Court explained that the FERC regulation does not regulate retail electricity sales in violation of the Federal Power Act. Third, the Court stated that the EPSA position would subvert the intent of the Federal Power Act. Additionally, the Court held that the FERC decision to compensate demand response providers at the same prices paid to generators is not arbitrary and capricious. Justice Scalia filed a dissenting opinion that was joined by Justice Thomas. Justice Alito did not take part in the consideration.

As you may remember, the NAESB DSM-EE Specifications Task Force previously determined that the potential development of an RMQ Demand Response (DR) Measurement and Verification (M&V) Specification to support a certification program for the DSM-EE WEQ and RMQ standards should be postponed due to the pending litigation surrounding FERC Order No. 745. The NAESB DR and EE M&V Specification effort began in response to the August 6, 2013 request from Dominion Voltage Inc. to consider the development of the specification. The first part of the DR and EE specification effort - the EE M&V products and services specification has been completed and is now available to the industry. Given the Supreme Court ruling, the DSM-EE Specifications Task Force will be brought back into action and soon announce its first meeting of the year to continue to address the potential development of the DR M&V specification for the certification program.

For more information, please go to [2015 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [January 25, 2016 Supreme Court Decision](#), [DSM-EE Subcommittee Page](#), [NAESB Certification Page](#), [Application for NAESB Certification Program for DR and EE M&V Services or Products](#), [Board Certification Committee NAESB DR and EE M&V Services or Products Certification Process](#) and [NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Certification of Energy Efficiency M&V Products and Services](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms (eForms): Since the August 13, 2015 kick off call, the WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee, chaired by Leigh Spangler of Latitude Technologies and Dick Brooks of ISO New England, have been diligently working to address 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 6.a and 2016 WGQ Annual Plan Item 4.a. Added to the annual plans in June 2015, these items call for the development and/or modification of standards in support of the April 16, 2015 FERC Order, *Order Instituting Proceeding to Develop Electronic Filing Protocols for Commission Forms* (Docket No. AD15-11-000).

Through the April 16, 2015 Order and the subsequent Technical Conference, the Commission stated that they are considering the elimination of the current software used to submit certain FERC forms, Visual Fox Pro, and transitioning to an XML format. Specifically, the forms being considered for transition are 1, 1-F, 2, 2-A, 3-Q electric, 3-Q gas, 6, 6Q, FERC-60, and FERC 714. Citing the previous success of the NAESB standards development process in the electronic tariff (eTariff) project, the FERC asked that NAESB consider supporting the eForms effort in order to facilitate stakeholder development.

During the subcommittee's last conference call on December 7, 2015, the participants reviewed a finalized Preliminary Topics work paper, including a process flow that provides a high level overview of the form submittal process. Additionally, the committee reviewed a working assessment of Form 6, began discussing XML and data dictionary formatting, and heard a presentation regarding XML schemas. FERC staff has been working closely with the subcommittee and regularly participates in the subcommittee meetings.

As the forms that FERC has marked for transition include those submitted by jurisdictional oil pipe line companies, NAESB is coordinating with the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) to ensure that any action that would address wholesale gas and wholesale electric market forms is consistent with any solutions proposed to address oil pipe line specific forms. The next WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Committee conference call will be announced by the NAESB office.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2015 WGO Annual Plan](#), [2016 WGO Annual Plan](#), [WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee Page](#), [April 16, 2015 FERC Order Instituting Proceeding](#), [May 1, 2015 Notice of Conference with NAESB](#), [May 29, 2015 Supplemental Notice of Conference with NAESB](#), [June 1, 2015 Board Working Session Final Minutes](#), [June 10, 2015 Technical Conference Transcript](#), [July 16, 2015 FERC Notice of NAESB Meeting](#), [December 7, 2015 FERC Forms Subcommittee Draft Minutes](#), [November 13, 2015 FERC Forms Subcommittee Final Minutes](#), [September 14, 2015 FERC Forms Subcommittee Final Minutes](#), [September 1, 2015 FERC Forms Subcommittee Final Minutes](#), [August 13, 2015 FERC Forms Subcommittee Draft Minutes](#), [Preliminary Topics Work Paper Revised 11/13/15](#), [Form 6 Fields Work Paper \(Working Draft\)](#), [Form No. 6 & 6Q with Instructions](#), [Versioning and Use Case Demonstration Presentation](#), [Submitted by Links Technology Solutions](#), [Versioning and Use Case Demonstration Slide Notes](#), [Submitted by Links Technology Solutions](#), [Form 6Q Partial Sample XML](#), [Submitted by Links Technology Solutions \(.zip Folder\)](#) and [High Level Process Flow Draft 01](#).

NAESB and NERC Continuing Coordination: NERC and NAESB continue to hold monthly conference calls to maintain lock step coordination efforts on multiple industry projects. The recent focus of these calls has been NERC's consideration of the retirement of NERC BAL-004 Time Error Correction Reliability Standards. The topic has become a standing agenda item on the NERC/NAESB coordination calls, as the retirement of the NERC BAL-004 standards would likely affect the corresponding NAESB WEQ-006 Manual Time Error Correction Business Practice Standards. Similarly, potential additions or modifications to the NAESB Business Practice Standards may result from the proposed retirement of the NERC BAL-006 Inadvertent Interchange Reliability Standards, as NAESB maintains the corresponding commercial standards under NAESB WEQ-007 Inadvertent Interchange Payback Business Practice Standards. The NERC Board of Trustees will consider the proposed retirement of both BAL-004 and BAL-006 in the second quarter of 2016. NAESB will continue to monitor the items under 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Items 1.e and 1.g.

Another major coordination topic is the removal of the Purchasing-Selling Entity (PSE), Load Serving Entity (LSE), and Interchange Authority (IA) functional entities from the NERC Compliance Registry. On March 19, 2015, FERC *Order on Electric Reliability Organization Risk Based Registration Initiative and Requiring Compliance Filing* was issued in Docket No. RR15-4-000 and requested that NERC coordinate with NAESB regarding revisions to the NERC Rules of Procedure that will implement NERC's Risk-Based Registration initiative. The WEQ leadership is currently evaluating the need for a standards request to address requirements related to dynamic tagging that could be impacted by NERC's efforts.

In addition to these projects, NAESB and NERC staff continue to discuss all other projects underway that may impact either or both organizations. In addition to the activities of the staff, the NERC and NAESB leadership will continue to meet periodically to evaluate the status of their development efforts. Additionally, the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee (SRS) holds monthly conference calls to review the NERC and NAESB glossaries, NERC Activities, and the coordination of the RMQ and WEQ glossary definitions. The next WEQ SRS conference call will be held on February 11, 2016.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [March 19, 2015 FERC Order](#), [March 19, 2015 Errata Notice](#), [WEQ CSS](#), [WEQ SRS Page](#), [EIR Page](#), [EIR Enhancement Request Page](#), and [WEQ BPS Page and WEQ/WGQ FERC Forms Subcommittee](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT (continued)

WEQ Open Access Same-time Information Systems (OASIS) Subcommittee: On December 3, 2015, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee voted out a recommendation for 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 2.a.i.2. Developed in response to FERC Order Nos. 890, 890-A, and 890-B, the recommendation formalizes the process of long term firm rollover rights competition on the OASIS systems and contains proposed modifications to WEQ-000, WEQ-001, WEQ-002, WEQ-003, and WEQ-013. In order to give the industry time to review the substantial work during the holiday season, the industry comment period was extended by the WEQ Executive Committee from thirty to forty five days (December 3, 2015 to January 19, 2016). The subcommittee held a face-to-face meeting hosted by Duke Energy in Charlotte, NC on January 26-28, 2016 to review and develop late comments considering the eight formal comments that were submitted by Duke Energy, Southern Company, BC Hydro, Bonneville Power Administration, and joint comments submitted by IESO, MISO, PJM, and SPP. During its February 23, 2016 meeting hosted by Salt River Project in Phoenix, Arizona, the WEQ Executive Committee will review the long term preemption recommendation and the industry comments.

In the wake of the completion of the long term recommendation, the OASIS Subcommittee instantly shifted focus to the short term firm aspects of preemption and competition under 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 2.a.i.1. The group previously worked to address short term preemption and competition last year; however, the issuance of FERC Order No. 676-H postponed the standards development effort. Now, in addition to the short term firm efforts, the subcommittee recommendation will also incorporate 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 5.b, the creation of a new OASIS mechanism, and consolidations. Consolidations allow for the merger of like reservations without the use of the resale mechanism. The joint recommendation for both annual plan items is scheduled to be voted out of the subcommittee in 2016. The WEQ OASIS Subcommittee has scheduled its next conference call from February 24-25, 2016. During the meeting, the participants will continue to discuss short term preemption and competition and consolidations. As always, all interested parties are welcome to attend the meeting.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [WEQ OASIS Page](#), [FERC Order No. 890](#), [FERC Order No. 890-A](#), [FERC Order No. 890-B](#), [FERC Order No. 676-H](#), [December 3, 2016 OASIS Draft Meeting Minutes](#), [Recommendation for 2015 Annual Plan Item 2.a.i.2](#), [Request for Comments on 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 2.a.i.2](#), [Comments Submitted by BPA](#), [Redline Comments Submitted by BPA](#), [Comments Submitted by BC Hydro](#), [Comments Submitted by IESO](#), [MISO](#), [PJM](#) and [SPP](#), [Comments Submitted by Southern Company](#), [Redline Comments Submitted by Southern Company](#), [Comments Submitted by Duke Energy](#), [Redline Comments Submitted by Duke Energy](#) and [February 23, 2016 WEQ Executive Committee Announcement](#).

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, (https://www.naesb.org/nonmember_page.asp). For more information, please go to [NAESB Current Committee Activities](#) or contact Denise Rager (drager@naesb.org) for additional information.

Parallel Flow Visualization-Transmission Loading Relief (PFV-TLR): On January 29, 2016, NAESB filed a PFV project status report to the FERC in Docket No. EL14-82-000. The report not only provides the Commission with information on the continued coordination efforts related to the PFV project by NAESB, NERC, and the Interchange Distribution Calculator (IDC) Association, but also delivers an updated project timeline based upon new information provided by the IDC Association. The timeline has been extended.

As noted in the filing, the IDC Working Group (IDCWG) recently completed an assessment of the NAESB PFV-related standards and communicated to OATI the necessary modifications to the IDC tool to allow for a PFV field trial. Following the approval of a requisite change order, the IDCWG and OATI will develop, implement, and test the needed modifications for the PFV field trial, an effort that is tentatively scheduled to be completed in February 2017. During this time, the IDCWG will also develop a test plan, which will include commercial and reliability test metrics developed with the assistance of NAESB and NERC. The IDCWG and OATI anticipate that the testing on the modifications to the IDC tool will begin during March of 2017 and conclude approximately four months later. A subsequent eighteen month field trial is tentatively scheduled to conclude in January 2019. As noted previously, the projected timeline is dependent upon several contingencies.

At the conclusion of the PFV field trial, the IDCWG will provide a report on the results of the commercial metrics of the project. The WEQ Business Practice Subcommittee (BPS) will utilize the report to analyze whether any changes should be made to the standards and present the recommendation to the WEQ Executive Committee.

As an industry initiated effort, the PFV project seeks to improve the congestion management process of the Eastern Interconnection by increasing the real-time visibility of the source and magnitude of parallel flows in the bulk electric system. Although voted out of the WEQ Executive Committee in February of 2015, the recommendation for the PFV Business Practice Standards is being held in abeyance until the conclusion of the field trial. The proposed modifications to the business practice standards support the submittal of near real-time data to the IDC, furthering the goal of ensuring that non-firm intra-balancing authority transmission service is curtailed before firm service.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [January 29, 2016 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [March 25, 2015 NAESB PFV Report to FERC](#), [January 28, 2015 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [July 11, 2014 PFV Status Report to FERC](#), [WEQ BPS Page](#), [WEQ Executive Committee Task Force Page](#), [Recommendation approved by the NAESB WEQ Executive Committee on February 24, 2015 to initiate the full staffing process \(Redline\)](#), [Executive Committee Task Force PFV Request for Comments](#), [Entergy Comments](#), [Joint IESO, ISO-NE, MISO, NYISO, PJM, and SPP Comments](#), [MISO Comments](#), [WEQ SRS Comments](#), [NYISO Comments](#), [Southern Company Comments](#), [WEQ Executive Committee PFV Task Force Late Comments](#), [IESO Late Comments](#), [October 21, WEQ Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#), [WEQ BPS PFV Recommendation](#) and [WEQ BPS PFV Request for Formal Comments](#).

Data Privacy Update: Moving into 2016, NAESB will continue to offer the NARUC-endorsed NAESB Third Party Data Privacy Practices Certification Program to support the NAESB REQ.22 Data Privacy Model Business Practices. The Board Certification Program Committee developed the program and the Data Privacy Task Force, chaired by Christine Wright, formerly of the Texas PUC, developed the accompanying specification to support the effort. The NAESB Certification Program utilizes a self-certification format whereby the party certifies that the software product or software solution meets the program's minimum requirements.

If you or your company is interested in obtaining a certification for your product or service, the process you should follow is described in the NAESB Third Party Data Privacy Practices Certification Process. Further, the product or service requirements can be found in the NAESB Specification for Data Privacy Governing Third Party Access.

For more information, please go to [NAESB Certification Page](#), [Application for NAESB Certification of Third Party Data Privacy Practices](#), [Affidavit of NAESB Certification for Third Party Data Privacy Practices](#), [Board Certification Committee NAESB Third Party Data Privacy Practices Certification Process](#) and [NAESB Specification for Data Privacy Governing Third Party Access](#).

Update on the Electric Industry Registry (EIR or Registry) and e-Tagging Specification: As you know, the NAESB-managed EIR serves as the central repository for data utilized by the electric industry in the scheduling of transmission service on the bulk electric grid. Later this year, the EIR will be retiring the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) service. The FTP site, created in 2012, was intended to be a temporary solution to aid registry users in the downloading of registry data as part of the original transition of the registry from the NERC Transmission System Information Networks (TSIN) to the NAESB EIR. The retirement of the service was first discussed with the industry via the Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee (CISS) in October 2015. At the time, OATI, the registry system administrator, identified three registry users still utilizing the FTP service. The decision to move forward with the retirement was based on the input of the CISS as well as feedback from the individual outreach NAESB made to the three entities using the FTP service. An initial announcement regarding the retirement was made to the industry on December 17, 2015.

Following the retirement, the FTP site will be removed and registry users will no longer be able to access publication files from this service. Registry publications will only be available for download from the NAESB EIR in the XML file format. This enhancement builds upon previous improvements to the EIR, including the EIR acceptance of the registration of pseudo-ties in support of NERC Reliability Standard INT-004-3.1.

Currently, the CISS is developing a recommendation that will allow the market operator functionality to become a separate entity code role within the NAESB EIR. The subcommittee expects to complete the effort within 2016. Following approval from the WEQ Executive Committee, the recommendation will be sent for ratification by the NAESB membership, and NAESB will work with OATI to implement the necessary changes in the EIR.

As previously announced, the e-Tag Specification Version 1.8.2 was successfully implemented on March 31, 2015. The specification supports the Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) on OASIS standards and accommodates regional business practices of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). Further, e-Tag Specification 1.8.2 contains modifications that allow for multiple reliability profiles on an electronic tag to meet industry needs. The WEQ CISS will hold its next conference call on February 29, 2016. All interested parties are welcome to participate.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#),

[2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [NAESB EIR Page](#), [WEQ CISS Page](#), [December 17, 2015 EIR Press Release](#), [ER13001](#), [ER13001 Recommendation](#), [Request Form for Enhancement to NAESB EIR](#) and [WEQ-004 Coordinate Interchange Business Practice Standards](#).

RMQ Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) Task Force: Following a January 28, 2016 single-topic conference call, on February 4, 2016, the RMQ Executive Committee approved, via notational ballot, the recommendation for 2015 Annual Plan Item 9.a/R14008 – Develop model business practices to support OpenFMB architecture for interoperable data exchange between distributed power systems devices on the electric grid's field area networks. OpenFMB consists of internet protocol (IP) networking, Internet of Things (IoT) messaging protocols, and standardized common semantic models, to enable the secure, reliable, and scalable communications and peer-to-peer information exchange between devices on the electric grid. The OpenFMB Model Business Practices seek to enhance interoperability between such intelligent grid devices.

Spurred by Standards Request R14008, submitted in October 2014 by Duke Energy Corp., the RMQ.26 OpenFMB Model Business Practices will comprise a new book to the suite of NAESB RMQ standards. In December, the Retail OpenFMB Task Force voted out the recommendation for a thirty day industry comment period which concluded on January 15, 2016. Two comments were received from Phil Precht of Baltimore Gas and Electric and Dick Brooks of ISO New England. The recommendation was sent to the NAESB membership for a ratification period, ending on March 7, 2016. If ratified, RMQ.26 will appear in the Version 3.1 publication of the NAESB RMQ Model Business Practices.

This utility-led effort has strengthened the coordination ties between NAESB and the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP), as the project includes the NAESB Model Business Practices and several Use Cases developed within the SGIP. On February 9-11, 2016, an OpenFMB demo will be showcased at the 2016 DistribuTECH conference.

For more information, please go to [2015 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [RMQ OpenFMB Task Force Page](#), [January 28, 2016 RMQ Executive Committee Draft Minutes](#), [January 28, 2016 RMQ Executive Committee Notational Ballot](#), [Notational Ballot Results](#), [Revised Recommendation](#), [December 16, 2015 Open FMB Meeting Notes](#), [Request for Formal Comments](#), [Comments Submitted by Baltimore Gas and Electric](#), [Comments Submitted by ISO New England](#) and [Version 3.1 Publication Schedule](#).

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT *(continued)*

Smart Grid Update: Moving into 2016, NAESB will continue its relationship with the Green Button Alliance (GBA). The GBA promotes the expansion and adoption of Green Button implementation by utilities. The Green Button Initiative, launched in 2012, is a response to a White House call to action, challenging utilities to provide their customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage data in a computer- and consumer-friendly format via a “Green Button” on electric utility websites.

While facilitating compliance, development, and employment of the Green Button Initiative, the GBA provides certification of implementations, marketing, and education for the industry. Recently, Jonathan Booe, the NAESB Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, agreed to serve on the GBA Board of Directors and Barry Hasser, GBA Executive Director, has joined the NAESB Board of Directors. The Green Button Initiative now supports more than 150 service providers and utilities that provide more than 60 million U.S. households, altogether 100 million people, access to their own Green Button energy data.

Additionally, the GBA has offered to provide subject matter expertise as the RMQ considers revisions to the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Service Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices, the critical foundation for the Green Button. ESPI has a common XML format for energy usage information and a data exchange protocol which allows for the automatic transfer of data from a utility to a third party based on customer authorization. NAESB looks forward to continuing a relationship with the GBA as they move forward with their efforts to empower utility customers through the Green Button Initiative.

For more information, please go to [2015 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 RMQ Annual Plan](#), [REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices](#), [Green Button Alliance Page](#), [NARUC Resolution on Smart Grid Principles](#) and [Green Button Page](#).

NAESB Webcast Courses: In 2016, NAESB will continue to offer interactive webcast courses to the industry. Last year’s courses were well attended and the NAESB office received positive feedback from course attendees. In the coming year, NAESB will offer a number of courses including the *WGQ Business Practice Standards Update Web Course* and the *Understanding the NAESB WGQ Contracts Webcast Course*. Additionally, dependent upon events within the industry, the *NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization* and the *NAESB WEQ Business Practice Standards Webcast Course* may also be offered along with other courses, as they become necessary. The dates of the 2016 webcast courses will soon be announced by the NAESB office.

For more information, please go to [NAESB Primers and Training Courses Page](#).

Cybersecurity: On December 10, 2015, the NAESB Board of Directors adopted a resolution from the Board Certification Program Committee to modify the NAESB Accredited Certificate Authority Process document. The modifications to the process document allow a NAESB Authorized Certificate Authority (ACA) to issue a digital certificate to energy industry participants without meeting the prerequisite that the entity first register in the NAESB EIR if the digital certificate is being used for non-WEQ-012 applications (such as OASIS and the NAESB EIR). This enhancement will allow energy industry participants to use the certification program to authenticate internal or external users seeking access to the entity’s system or devices under its control. The modifications were based on a proposal by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee precipitated by an effort within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) to develop an Identity and Access Management Reference Architecture for energy participants. In a draft of the document, released in August 2015, the NIST NCCoE included the use of digital certificates issued under the NAESB Accredited Certificate Authority Certification Program as one method utilities can implement to secure network access.

On February 23, 2016, the WEQ Executive Committee will consider two no action recommendations voted out of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee (CSS) during its October 14, 2015 conference call. First, the no action recommendation for 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a.i tasked the subcommittee with a minimum annual review of the accreditation requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities to determine if any changes are needed to meet market conditions. The second recommendation, addressing 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.c, called on the CSS to evaluate and modify standards as needed to support and/or complement the current version of the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards and any other activities of the FERC related to cybersecurity. Both recommendations were posted for a thirty day industry comment period that began on December 15, 2016 and concluded on January 14, 2016. No comments were received on either recommendation. The February 23, 2016 WEQ Executive Committee meeting will be hosted by Salt River Project in Phoenix, AZ.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [WEQ CSS Page](#), [Board Certification Program Page](#), [February 23, 2016 WEQ Executive Committee Agenda](#), [October 14, 2015 CSS Draft Minutes](#), [No Action Recommendation for 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a.i](#), [Request for Comments on 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a.i](#), [No Action Recommendation on 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.c](#), [Request for Comments on 2015 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.c](#), [December 10, 2015 Board Meeting Draft Minutes](#), [November 11, 2015 Board Certification Committee Meeting Notes](#), [Board Certification Ballot](#), [Board Certification Ballot Results](#), [NAESB Certification Page](#), [Application for NAESB Certification Program for ACAs](#), [Board Certification Committee ACA Process](#) and [NAESB Accreditation Requirements for ACAs](#).

NAESB Board Meeting and Board Committees Update: On December 10, 2015, the Board of Directors held its last scheduled meeting for 2015. During the meeting, the board adopted the 2016 budget and the 2016 Annual Plans for each quadrant and two Board Committee resolutions from the Revenue Committee and the Board Certification Program Committee.

As modifications to corporate structures seems to be a continuing trend within the industry, a Board Revenue Committee resolution was approved in an effort to reduce the impact of the loss of revenue generated by membership fees. The approved resolution proposed that “[m]ultiple entities under common control within a corporate organization that desire to become members must join individually. Members cannot extend their membership to their parent company, affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions or joint ventures. Affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions or joint ventures that are regulated at a state or federal level and are required to file individual tariffs that reference NAESB standards must hold individual memberships or purchase the standards.” The language will become effective in 2017.

Also, during the December board meeting the board approved a resolution adopted by the Board Certification Program Committee to modify the NAESB Authorized Certificate Authority (ACA) Process document. As a quorum was not reached during the November 11, 2015 Board Certification Program Committee meeting, the committee approved the changes through a notational ballot.

As always, several board committees updated the board on their recent activities. On November 10, 2015, the Board Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Task Force held a conference call to review the proposed 2016 annual plans and ensure their consistency with the 2015-2017 NAESB Strategic Plan. On November 9, 2015 the Parliamentary Committee continued its discussion regarding the majority voting requirements contained in the governing documents. Another conference call to address the majority voting requirements will be announced within the first quarter of 2016.

The board also engaged in a high level discussion regarding the September 17, 2015 FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) regarding the collection of connected entity data from regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In the NOPR, the Commission proposes to require each RTO and ISO to electronically provide the Commission with data from market participants that, among other information, would identify the market participant by means of a common alpha-numeric identifier. The Commission identified the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system as the best method by which to achieve a reliable, standard identification system. The Commission is proposing that RTOs and ISOs require their market participants to obtain LEIs and report their own LEI as well as the LEIs of each of their connected entities. The NOPR also proposes RTOs and ISOs provide the Commission with a list of their connected entities and a brief description of the nature of the relationship with each connected entity. The Commission stated that the “uniform identification of market participants, together with the listing of entities that comprise a network of common interests, would enhance the Commission’s efforts to detect and deter market manipulation.” To initiate the conversation within the industry, a technical conference was held at the FERC offices on December 8, 2015. The comment period for the NOPR closed on January 22, 2016.

The next board meeting is scheduled to be held April 7, 2016 in Houston, TX at the Four Seasons Hotel Downtown.

For more information, please go to [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 RMO Annual Plan](#), [2016 WGQ Annual Plan](#), [December 10, 2015 Board Draft Minutes](#), [October 31, 2015 Membership and Financial Report](#), [November 30, 2015 Membership Changes Report](#), [Board Revenue Committee Resolution](#), [Board Certification Program Committee Resolution](#), [July 29, 2015 Board Revenue Meeting Notes](#), [November 11, 2015 Board Certification Committee Meeting Notes](#), [Board Certification Ballot](#), [Board Certification Ballot Results](#), [NAESB Certification Page](#), [Application for NAESB Certification Program for ACAs](#), [Board Certification Committee ACA Process](#), [NAESB Accreditation Requirements for ACAs](#), [November 10, 2015 Board Strategic Ad Hoc Planning Task Force Meeting Notes](#), [2015-2017 NAESB Strategic Plan](#), [September 17, 2015 FERC NOPR](#) and [December 8, 2015 FERC Technical Conference Agenda](#).

Filings: As detailed in the PFV section of this newsletter, NAESB filed a PFV Status Report to the Commission in Docket No. EL14-82-000 on January 29, 2016. The report updated the Commission on the timeline for the project and provided information regarding coordination efforts between NAESB, NERC, and the IDC Association.

On January 15, 2016, the FERC issued a Proposed Rule and Request for Comments (Docket No. RM96-01-040) concerning the NAESB WGQ Version 3.0 Errata Filing for Minor Correction, MC15021. The minor correction clarifies the intent of NAESB WGQ Business Practice Standard No. 1.3.22 (ii) in the Version 3.0 publication. Following adoption by the WGQ Executive Committee during its October 22, 2016 meeting, MC15021 was filed with the Commission on January 11, 2016 (Docket No. RM96-01-038). The Commission requests that the industry submit comments on or before February 10, 2016 regarding the possible incorporation by reference into the Commission’s standards of the proposed minor correction.

As you may know, FERC Order No. 587-W was issued on October 16, 2015 (Docket Nos. RM96-1-038 and RM14-2-003) and incorporated by reference Version 3.0 of the NAESB WGQ Business Practice Standards into the Commission’s regulations. The updated business practice standards contain and supplement the revisions to the NAESB scheduling standards accepted by the Commission in FERC Order No. 809.

Filings (continued): Additionally, on January 14, 2016, NAESB submitted a notice to FERC in Docket No. RM96-1-038 regarding three corrections of errors contained in the version cross-reference of the NAESB report on Version 3.0 of the NAESB WGQ standards, submitted to the Commission on November 14, 2014. The errors relate only to the cross-reference table and do not affect the final standards incorporated by reference by the Commission in FERC Order No. 587-W. Version 3.0 of the WGQ Business Practice Standards was published on November 14, 2014.

As reported in the last newsletter, Version 003.1 of the NAESB WEQ Business Practice Standards were filed with the FERC on October 26, 2015. The modifications signify an extensive amount of work on the behalf of the WEQ and reflect twenty seven separate action items (requests, minor corrections or annual plan items), six of which are minor corrections and twenty one final actions. Version 003.1 incorporates action items from August 1, 2012 through September 30, 2015, including: new items – 11 abbreviations/acronyms, 24 definitions, 138 standards, 1 appendix; revised items – 17 definitions, 188 standards, 4 appendices; and deleted items – 1 abbreviation/acronym, 3 definitions, 79 standards, 1 appendix.

For more information, please go to [2015 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2016 WEQ Annual Plan](#), [2015 WGO Annual Plan](#), [2016 WGO Annual Plan](#), [January 29, 2016 NAESB Status Report on PFV Project](#), [January 15, 2016 FERC Proposed Rule on WGO Version 3.0 Errata, MCI5021](#), [Recommendation for M15021 as approved by the WGO Executive Committee](#), [October 22, 2016 WGO Executive Committee Draft Meeting Minutes](#), [January 11, 2016 MCI5021 Filing](#), [FERC Order No. 587-W](#), [January 14, 2016 NAESB Filing Regarding Cross Reference Errata in Version 3.0](#), [November 14, 2014 Filing of WGO Version 3.0 Standards](#), [July 16, 2015 NOPR on the WGO Version 3.0 Standards](#), [WEQ Final Actions](#) and [October 26, 2015 FERC Filing of WEQ Version 003.1](#).

NAESB Quadrant/Segment Membership Analysis:

Wholesale Gas Quadrant	121 Members
End Users Segment	16
Distributors Segment	19
Pipelines Segment	42
Producers Segment	14
Services Segment	30
Retail Markets Quadrant	45 Members
Retail Electric End Users/Public Agencies Segment	16
Retail Gas Market Interests Segment	11
Retail Electric Utilities Segment	7
Retail Electric Service Providers/Suppliers Segment	11
Wholesale Electric Quadrant	140 Members
End Users Segment	12
Distributors Segment	19
Transmission Segment	43
Generation Segment	23
Marketers/Brokers Segment	24
Non Specified	1
Independent Grid Operators/Planners Segment	9
Technology & Services Segment	9
Total Membership	306 Members

Copyright/NAESB Standards Access: As everyone should be aware, NAESB copyrights its work products – a practice used by most standards organizations. The copyrights are considered a subset of intellectual property law, and NAESB retains the rights to publication, reproduction, display and distribution. NAESB members may obtain materials free of charge as part of their benefits, but these 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 penalties of \$100,000+, injunction, impounding of materials, seizure of property, and award 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.

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

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