##### February 14, 2025

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, Director of Wholesale Electric Activities

**RE: WEQ/RMQ/WGQ Cybersecurity Activities**

Currently, the RMQ and WEQ are considering the development of cybersecurity-related standards to help secure commercial electronic communications necessary to conduct transactions for distribution grid services between a distributed energy resource (DER) aggregator and distribution utility. Over the past several joint meetings, the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS), RMQ BPS and WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee participants have worked to develop the DER Aggregator-Distribution Utility Bidirectional Market-Based Communication Exchange Use Case. The work paper identifies relevant cybersecurity goals and considerations and communication-related standards or protocols that parties may use to facilitate the various categories of information exchanges. As part of the most recent meeting, held on January 15, 2025, the participants noted that before standards development can proceed, further information is needed regarding related business processes and requirements, including feedback from distribution utilities and DER aggregators. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2024, during which the co-chairs of the joint subcommittees plan to review the use case and any submitted work papers and make a determination regarding how to move forward with the joint annual plan assignment at this time.

The 2025 WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ Annual Plans also include several other cybersecurity related items. Every year, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee, WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) Subcommittee, and RMQ Information Requirements/Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee (IR/TEIS) undertake proactive efforts to evaluate the need to revise existing standards or develop new standards to help ensure the NAESB Business Practice Standards continue to meet the cybersecurity needs of the industry. Additionally, the 2025 WEQ Annual Plan includes a joint assignment for the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee and WEQ BPS to consider and develop business practice standards for cybersecurity disclosure best practice policies, such as software supply chain risks, to support industry implementation of any applicable regulations.