##### February 7, 2018

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, NAESB Deputy Director

**RE: Monthly Update Call – Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment**

Scheduled for February 26, 2018, the next Board Critical Infrastructure Committee (CIC) conference call with webcasting will include a review and discussion of the draft Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment recently provided to NAESB from Sandia National Laboratories. This draft document is a precursor to the final report which is expected within the coming months. The draft report is divided into findings and recommendations covering the documentation comprising the NAESB Certification Program for Accredited Certification Authorities, the standards covered by the original scope of the surety assessment, and the WEQ OASIS Standards.

Sponsored by the Department of Energy and announced during the April 6, 2017 meeting of the NAESB Board of Directors, the surety assessment seeks to analyze security elements within the NAESB Business Practice Standards and Model Business Practices and perform a high-level dependency analysis between the gas and electric markets. As specified in the draft report, the original scope of the surety assessment included the Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) and Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ) Internet Electronic Transport and Electronic Delivery Mechanism Standards as well as the NAESB Certification Program for Accredited Certification Authorities, which is comprised of – (1) the WEQ Public Key Infrastructure Standards, (2) the Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities, and (3) the Authorized Certification Authority Process. Following discussions held in August between the Sandia National Laboratories team and subject matter experts, the scope was expanded to encompass certain aspects of the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) Open Access Same-time Information Systems (OASIS) Business Practice Standards as well.

During the last Board of Directors meeting, in preparation for the forthcoming assessment, the board approved the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ Annual Plans, each of which included a provisional annual plan item to develop and/or modify standards if needed to address any recommendations resulting from the surety assessment. At the request of the Chair of the Board of Directors, the Board CIC was reconvened for the purpose of addressing cybersecurity and critical infrastructure activities, specifically the surety assessment. The Board CIC held its initial kick off meeting last May followed by a follow up meeting in December. As always, the February 26, 2018 Board CIC conference call is open to all interested parties.