##### February 7, 2018

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: Monthly Update Call – Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Activities Update**

This January, NAESB submitted electronic comments in response to the Ontario Ministry of Energy’s November 29, 2017 *Regulatory Proposal for Province-Wide Implementation of Green Button*.  The proposed regulation would make it a requirement for Ontarian electricity and natural gas utilities to implement Green Button Download My Data (DMD) and Connect My Data (CMD). In the comments, NAESB explained the early 2018 initiative that will begin to update the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) standard and schema. The updates will also incorporate the derivative work, called the Derived ESPI, that has been developed outside of NAESB to assist various implementations. NAESB expects to announce the kick off meeting for this effort in February.

Serving as the critical foundation for the Green Button, the ESPI standard provides best practices, use cases, models, and an XML schema that facilitate the exchange of the energy usage information. Specifically, the ESPI standard provides an industry-standard XML format and a data exchange protocol for the exchange of a retail customer’s energy usage information between their designated data custodian and an authorized third-party service provider. Launched in 2012, the Green Button Initiative is a response to the White House call to action that challenged utilities to provide their customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage data via a “Green Button” on their websites. Since the start of the Green Button Initiative in the United States, over 150 utilities and service providers have committed to providing more than 60 million US households with access to Green Button data. In Ontario, more than half of the consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses, now have access to their Green Button data. In the past years, NAESB has helped facilitate the participation of over seventy-seven Ontarian utility companies. As you may remember, the Ontario Ministry of Energy has previously utilized the ESPI standard within a reference architecture guide for Green Button implementation in its jurisdiction.

During this year’s DistribuTECH, held from January 23 to January 25, the Green Button Alliance (GBA) booth provided attendees with more information on the Green Button, including certification, use cases, and implementations. Additionally, during the co-located Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative’s Consumer Symposium, GBA staff sat on an energy data-access panel discussion. The GBA fosters the development, compliance, and wide-spread adoption of the Green Button standard. Last year, NAESB and the GBA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to define the relationship that the two organizations will share regarding the ESPI standard and the Green Button Certified Download My Data, Connect My Data, and other future GBA certification programs. As part of the MOU, in exchange for providing free access to the XML Schema, the GBA will provide its resources to assist in the updates of ESPI and will require valid, legal access to the ESPI standard as a condition of certification within any Green Button related certification programs – currently the Green Button Certified Download My Data and Green Button Certified Connect My Data programs.

Also of note to Green Button enthusiasts, Ontario recently acknowledged its commitment to expanding the Green Button in *Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan 2017: Delivering Fairness and Choice*. The plan states that “[i]n the long-term, implementing Green Button provincewide would support the Province’s continued efforts to put conservation first and help drive toward its long-term target of saving 30 TWh of electricity in 2032.”