



# North American Energy Standards Board

1415 Louisiana, Suite 3460, Houston, Texas 77002  
Phone: (713) 356-0060, Fax: (713) 356-0067, E-mail: [naesb@naesb.org](mailto:naesb@naesb.org)  
Home Page: [www.naesb.org](http://www.naesb.org)

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April 27, 2026

## NAESB UPDATE CONFERENCE CALL

**WEQ NERC COORDINATION:** Mr. Norton, Chair of the NAESB WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee (SRS), provided the update. NAESB and NERC continue coordination activities in areas where NERC reliability standards development may overlap with the commercial and reliability considerations of the wholesale electric industry. The SRS met earlier this month to discuss potential topics where coordination with NERC could be beneficial. Discussion focused on NERC's new project addressing reliability risks associated with the integration of large computational loads connecting to the bulk power system. The project remains in its initial phase and is focused on the development of foundational requirements, including new defined terms and reliability standards. Recognizing that this is a high priority area for both NERC and FERC, the SRS will continue to monitor the project along with other NERC projects related to cybersecurity, distributed energy resources (DERs), NERC's response to FERC Order No. 901, and cold weather energy assurance. The SRS also continued its review of references to NERC, NERC reliability requirements, and other NERC documentation or industry guidance within the WEQ Business Practice Standards. In preparation for the next WEQ standards publication later this year, the review is intended to identify and update any references that are no longer applicable to ensure consistency with NERC reliability standards. The subcommittee identified minor updates during its initial review, including updates to acronyms and version references, and edits to improve consistency. At the request of the SRS, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee is currently reviewing the potential changes. The SRS will review the feedback from the OASIS Subcommittee at its next meeting on May 27, 2026.

**WEQ COORDINATE INTERCHANGE SCHEDULING ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Buus, Co-Chair of the NAESB WEQ Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee (CISS), provided the update. The WEQ CISS has finalized initial draft revisions to the WEQ-004 Coordinate Interchange Business Practice Standards to establish a standardized method for calculating integrated hourly values. This effort is in response to the 2026 WEQ Annal Plan item jointly assigned to the WEQ CISS, WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS), and the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee to assess whether modifications are needed to improve consistency in how integrated hourly values are calculated and used across entities. Under the current WEQ-004 definition, integrated values are calculated by rounding fractional values to the nearest whole megawatts per hour, but the resulting value can vary depending on whether rounding is performed on an e-Tag basis or on an interval basis. The CISS examined both methodologies and drafted proposed revisions to WEQ-004 to provide that integrated hourly values be calculated using an e-Tag approach. The subcommittee determined this approach would better support interchange schedule applications and commercial practices and requested that the WEQ BPS and WEQ OASIS review the revisions to determine whether corresponding changes or additional details are needed for other WEQ Business Practice Standards that reference the use of integrated values. Both subcommittees found that the proposed revisions do not appear to create downstream impacts on other standards. Based on this feedback, the WEQ CISS finalized the draft WEQ-004 revision and will discuss plans to move forward with issuing a formal industry comment at its next meeting in May 27, 2026. At the next meeting, the subcommittee will also begin its annual review of current e-Tag and cybersecurity requirements and practices. It is anticipated that both recommendations will be issued for industry comment prior to the WEQ Executive Committee consideration in October.

**WEQ/RMQ BPS: DER ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Trum, NAESB Director of Wholesale Electric Activities, provided the update on behalf of Mr. Maples. The WEQ and RMQ Business Practices Subcommittees (BPS) held an informal comment period to seek industry feedback on a two-part proposal intended to support the development of standards that would facilitate cross-market coordination and improve industry use of registries and other tools to access DER and DER aggregation data. The request for informal comments included a concept paper describing the two-part approach in greater detail. The first part of the proposal considers the creation of a DER Entity Registry that would serve as a centralized database for registering entities that provide, require, or access DER information within industry registries. The registry would function similarly to the NAESB Electric Industry Registry (EIR), identifying the organizational categories and functional roles necessary to support mutual authentication, data access controls, and cybersecurity protocols. The second part of the proposal supports the development of NAESB standards to facilitate data interoperability with existing industry processes and tools while preserving optionality and flexibility to



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accommodate customized databases already used by the industry. The subcommittees received a total of 14 sets of responses, including feedback from NERC staff, which the WEQ and RMQ BPS reviewed during meetings held on March 13, 2026 and April 9, 2026. Overall, the comments emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication with the NAESB EIR, defining the information flows and distribution-level communications needed to support wholesale market operations, promoting consistency for multi-market participation while preserving flexibility for existing processes, and coordinating with NERC. Comments from NERC noted that a DER Entity Registry could support the implementation of NERC reliability standards developed in response to FERC Order No. 901. To support coordination with NERC, WEQ and RMQ BPS leadership provided an update on the subcommittees' work and the two-part proposal at a joint meeting of the NERC System Planning Impacts from Distributed Energy Resources Working Group and Electric Vehicle Task Force. At the next meeting, the subcommittees will review the feedback from NERC and begin considering next steps regarding the potential development of a DER Entity Registry and standards to support data interoperability.

**WEQ/RMQ/WGQ CYBERSECURITY ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Jang, NAESB Staff Attorney, provided the update on behalf of Mr. Brooks. Since last December, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee has been discussing vendor vulnerability disclosure reporting and third-party software verification as part of a broader joint effort with the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS). This effort considers whether additional NAESB standards could help address gaps in existing guidance or support industry priorities related to the implementation of the NERC Supply Chain Risk Management Reliability Standards and FERC Order No. 912. One area identified by the subcommittee is the use of standardized contract language to support faster vendor notification of identified product vulnerabilities and mitigation steps. Participants reviewed sample contract provisions currently used by the industry for the disclosure and remediation of product vulnerabilities, along with relevant guidance and practices issued or used by government agencies, the European Union, NERC, and CISA. Based on these materials, the subcommittee developed a work paper at its most recent meeting to document considerations that could promote the delivery of clear, actionable information to industry stakeholders through development of standardized language. Identified topics include timelines for vendor reporting of confirmed vulnerabilities, vendor documentation expectations, and recommended corrective actions and circumstances under which vendor disclosures may be shared with third parties, such as a regulator or the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center. The WEQ Cybersecurity subcommittee will continue this work at its next meeting on April 30, 2026 and will also undertake its annual cybersecurity review. Separately, the WGQ and RMQ have scheduled a joint meeting on May 4, 2026 to conduct a joint review of its respective cybersecurity related standards.

**WEQ OASIS ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Arbitelle, Co-Chair of the NAESB WEQ OASIS Subcommittee, provided the update. The WEQ OASIS Subcommittee has initiated work on two new Standards Requests assigned to the subcommittee. The first Request, submitted by Black Hills Energy, proposes expanding the allowable field length for certain data elements used to represent transmission rates on OASIS nodes. In response, the WEQ OASIS developed proposed modifications to WEQ-003 OASIS Data Dictionary to promote greater consistency in the use of megawatt values for posting transmission rates and better accommodate future market changes, including DERs and large loads. The second Request, submitted by Southern Company, similarly proposes revisions to the WEQ-003 OASIS Data Dictionary to promote consistent formatting between OASIS nodes and the NAESB Electric Industry Registry (EIR). According to the Request, several data elements used to represent information on OASIS are used in other industry applications, such as e-Tag, and correspond to data objects registered in the NAESB EIR. The subcommittee began reviewing the request in March and is working to identify overlapping data points that may require further review for consistency. The WEQ OASIS has also started reviewing OASIS related standards to determine whether modifications or updates are needed since implementing Version 004. At its most recent meeting, discussions have focused on minor changes to the language related to addressing the transmission reservation process regarding the treatment of redirects. At the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 12, 2026, the subcommittee will vote on a recommendation for the Request submitted by Black Hills Energy and continue discussion on the second Request from Southern Company.

**RMQ ENERGY SERVICES PROVIDER INTERFACE TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Coffin, Chair of the NAESB RMQ ESPI Task Force, provided the update. On April 6, 2026, the RMQ membership ratified a recommendation to remove Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) as a data transport method from the ESPI standards.



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The recommendation was developed by the ESPI Task Force during its January meeting in response to a Standards Request submitted by the Green Button Alliance. Under the existing ESPI standards, bulk data could be transferred using either SFTP or Representational State Transfer (REST). The ESPI Task Force supported removing SFTP for several reasons. The Green Button Alliance noted that no SFTP implementations had been requested by utilities since the standards were first published, with utilities using REST as the prevailing API. The Task Force also found that SFTP does not align with the ESPI standards' goal of enabling automated, timely access to customer energy usage data by third parties and data custodians. Additionally, SFTP may present cybersecurity risks and is generally considered less secure than REST. Because SFTP remained an available option in the standard, third-party vendors were still required to support it, even though utilities have generally relied on REST for Green Button implementations. The removal of SFTP is expected to reduce unnecessary implementation burdens on third-party vendors and support broader participation. The recommendation was adopted by the RMQ Executive Committee at its March 5, 2026 meeting, along with two minor corrections to the ESPI standards. These minor corrections establish a more consistent approach for identifying deprecated elements and update diagrams in the standard to include a missing ESPI resource. The recommendation and minor corrections will be included in the next publication of the RMQ standards. The ESPI Task Force will meet later this year to consider a Standards Request proposing additional revisions to the ESPI standards intended to simplify implementation through the inclusion of a new schema and changes to support backward compatibility.

**WGQ CONTRACTS ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Booe, NAESB Executive Vice President and COO, provided the update on behalf of Mr. Sappenfield. On March 31, 2026 the WGQ Contracts Subcommittee held its kickoff meeting to consider a Standards Request submitted by the Clean Hydrogen Buyers Alliance to develop an ammonia addendum to the NAESB Base Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Hydrogen. The Request stated that the addendum could help expand use of the Hydrogen Base Contract by providing a single framework to capture the value of both low-carbon ammonia and hydrogen, support the transfer of carbon intensity attributes from low-carbon hydrogen between ammonia producers and buyers, and facilitate the trade of an instrument equivalent to the Energy Attribute Certificates used under the Hydrogen Base Contract. During the kickoff meeting the subcommittee determined that developing a standalone ammonia base contract would be a better approach to address the Request. The decision was informed by discussions among stakeholder groups within the Clean Hydrogen Buyers Alliance, including discussions coordinated through the Ammonia Energy Association after the request was submitted. Those discussions identified several ammonia-specific considerations, including distinct transportation characteristics and import and export transactions. Because of those differences, participants agreed that a separate ammonia base contract would allow for provisions that are more closely tailored to ammonia transactions while still accomplishing the overall objective of the proposed addendum. The proposed ammonia base contract will adopt the core provisions of the Hydrogen Base Contract, including the available transaction types, the treatment of bundled and unbundled Energy Attribute Certificates, and carbon intensity-related concepts. The Chair is currently gathering additional input from stakeholder groups to prepare a strawman draft ammonia base contract for the subcommittee's review.

**BOARD AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES UPDATE:** Mr. Booe, NAESB Executive Vice President and COO, provided the update. The Board Strategy Committee met on March 16, 2026, to consider Commissioner Chang's concurrence to FERC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR), which requested that NAESB continue work to improve gas-electric coordination, and the National Petroleum Council (NPC) recommendation on potential market mechanisms to support differentiated natural gas. After reviewing comments from the Board of Directors in response to a request for comments issued at the end of last year, along with feedback from the Strategy Committee and Advisory Council, the Board Strategy Committee developed a no-action recommendation which was submitted to the Board of Directors for notational ballot. The Board of Directors voted in favor of the recommendation. NAESB will communicate the voting results and provide the related record to Commissioner Chang and John Dabbar, Executive Director of the NPC. The Board Revenue Committee met April 17, 2026 and reviewed its standing agenda items, including NAESB's communications activities, membership levels, revenue generation, and publication schedule. The 2026 publication schedule is May 15, 2026 for RMQ, September 25, 2026 for WGQ, and December 15, 2026 for WEQ. The committee also reviewed the year-end 2025 financials, which reflected an increase of approximately \$120,000 in retained earnings. The Board of Directors will meet on April 23, 2026 to review the 2026 Annual Plans,



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2025 year-end financials, and the 2026 finance report.

**NEXT CONFERENCE CALL:** The next NAESB Update Conference Call is scheduled for June 10, 2026 from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Central. The agenda and any work papers will be posted on the NAESB Update Call page of the NAESB website, accessible at the following link: [http://www.naesb.org/monthly\\_update.asp](http://www.naesb.org/monthly_update.asp). We hope you can join us. If there are particular topics you would like to see covered or if you would like to receive additional information, please contact the NAESB Office by phone at (713) 356-0060 or email at [naesb@naesb.org](mailto:naesb@naesb.org).

<b>NAESB Update Conference Call Participant</b>	
<b>List April 22, 2026 1:00 PM Central</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Robert Arbitelle	Southern Company
Jonathan Booe	NAESB
Christopher Burden	Enbridge Inc.
Zach Buus	Bonneville Power Administration
Alexis Campbell	Portland General Electric
Donald Coffin	Green Button Alliance
Jeremy Diaz	National Fuel Gas
Jesse Garrido	LG&E and KU Services
Shawn Grant	California ISO
Brandon Hajek	Northern Natural Gas
Regina Jang	NAESB
Tom Kraft	ONEOK, Inc.
Nichole Lopez	Kinder Morgan
Willis McCluskey	Salt River Project
Steven McCord	TC Energy Corporation
Chris Norton	American Municipal Partners
TaShundra Robinson	Southern Company
Lisa Russo	National Fuel Gas
Sarah Shaffer	EQT Corporation
Sara Shepard	NorthWestern Energy
John Skeath	NERC
Carolyn Stone	Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
Caroline Trum	NAESB