##### August 10, 2017

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: Update to the Board of Directors – Cybersecurity Activities**

In July, the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) Cybersecurity Subcommittee (CSS) met to begin discussion on two annually recurring items listed on the 2017 WEQ Annual Plan. The first item, 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a, tasked the subcommittee to review the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Business Practice Standards and the accreditation requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities (ACAs) to determine if any changes are needed to meet market conditions. Next, 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.b, required the WEQ CSS to evaluate and modify standards as needed to support and/or complement the current version of the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standardsand any other activities of NERC and the FERC related to cybersecurity. Both annual plan items share a completion date within the third quarter of 2017.

During the July meeting, the WEQ CSS reviewed the new version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication, *Digital Identity Guidelines,*[[1]](#footnote-1) released in June of 2017. As the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for ACAs contains a section on identity proofing that references an earlier version of the guidelines, the subcommittee is determining what revisions, if any, should be made to the Accreditation Requirements for ACAs. Additionally, the WEQ CSS began an evaluation of the current NERC CIP Reliability Standards, focusing on NERC Project 2016-02 Modifications to CIP Standards. The subcommittee will continue to monitor the project and discuss any resulting modifications to the NAESB PKI Business Practice Standards.

In upcoming meetings, the WEQ CSS will discuss NERC Project 2016-03 Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Management. In response to the directives from the July 21, 2016 FERC Order No. 829[[2]](#footnote-2), NERC is currently addressing supply chain risk management for industrial control system hardware, software, and computing and networking services associated with the Bulk Electric System (BES) operations. As any of the developments on this project could potentially modify the CIP standards, the WEQ CSS will continue to closely monitor the efforts. Additionally, the next subcommittee meeting agenda will include the May 11, 2017 Executive Order, *Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure[[3]](#footnote-3)*. The next WEQ CSS meeting has been scheduled for September 7, 2017, following the NAESB Board of Directors meeting.

1. National Institute of Standards and Technology, *Special Publication 800-63-3*, Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol. Spec. Publ. 800-63-3, 73 pages (June 2017). The finalized four-volume SP 800-63 *Digital Identity Guidelines* document suite is now available through the following link: <https://pages.nist.gov/800-63-3/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Order No. 829, *Revised Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards*, 156 FERC ¶ 61, 050, 81 Fed. Reg. 49878 (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Exec. Order No. 13800, 82 Fed. Reg. 22391 (May 11, 2017). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)