##### October 7, 2024

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Amrit Nagi, Staff Attorney

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

As part of meetings scheduled on October 24, 2024, both the WGQ and RMQ Executive Committees will be considering recommendations in support of their respective annual plan assignments to review the cyber-security related business practices and make necessary changes. On August 22, 2024, the WGQ and RMQ met jointly to evaluate communication protocols and encryption methodologies included in within their respective standards to identify any legacy data fields or other functionalities that can be removed to limit potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Based on these discussions, the RMQ voted out a no action recommendation and the WGQ voted out a recommendation making one minor consistency change. The formal comment period ends on October 11, 2024 for both recommendations.

Additionally, the WEQ Executive Committee will be considering a no action recommendation voted out by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee in support of its similar annual plan assignment. As discussed by the participants, based on its evaluation of any potential modifications in response to market changes or to support FERC and NERC cybersecurity initiatives, modifications are not needed at this time. The formal comment period ended on September 3, 2024, and no comments were received.

The RMQ and WEQ are in the process of re-initiating its effort to review cybersecurity protections that may be necessary to secure electronic communications for distributed energy resources (DERs) and consider development of related business practices. A series of meetings were held between October and December 2023, during which the participants identified a gap in the availability of cybersecurity best practices for safeguarding communication channels between DER aggregators, utilities, and system operators and reached a consensus that NAESB Business Practice Standards in this area could be beneficial. The WEQ and RMQ shifted focus earlier this year in order to respond to the request from the U.S. DoE to develop a standardized a contract for the sale and purchase of distribution services from DER aggregations have been completed.