##### November 18, 2015

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: Update to the Board of Directors –RMQ Open Field Message Bus (Open FMB) Task Force**

**Update on the OpenFMB Task Force–**

As previously reported, the NAESB Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) Task Force remains on track to complete the OpenFMB standards development effort by the close of this year. In response to Standards Request R14008, the task force, co-chaired by Joe Zhou of Ernst & Young and Stuart Laval of Duke Energy, is working to define a framework and provide a specification for power systems field devices to leverage a non-proprietary and standards-based reference architecture, which consists of internet protocol (IP) networking and Internet of Things (IoT) messaging protocols.

The biweekly NAESB OpenFMB Task Force conference calls and meetings focus on the development of the core Model Business Practices, the REQ.26 OpenFMB Model Business Practices, that will support the OpenFMB architecture to be used by utilities and vendors to create the technical requirements for implementing, on field devices, the ability to communicate directly with each other via a field message bus. Following the general, operational, and management business practices that make up the bulk of the recommendation, the appendices will also contain important aspects of the project, including the XML Schema Definition (XSD) profiles, the sample use case scenarios, and Platform Independent Model (PIM) information.

As part of ongoing coordination with external organizations, the OpenFMB Task Force and the NAESB staff have maintained open lines of communication with the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) to ensure that the two organizations remain in lock step on the project. The SGIP has developed three Use Case Scenarios that have defined the preliminary scope of the model business practices and coordinated live demonstrations for the project. The three use cases include, the Grid Connected Load Optimization scenario, addressing the normal state of daily operations on a microgrid; the Islanded to Grid Connected Transition, addressing resynchronization and reconnection during the transition from islanded mode to grid-connected microgrid; and, the Unintentional Islanding Transition use case addressing unplanned islanding. EPRI, the SGIP, the UCAIug, and the Industrial Internet Consortium (IIC) have collaborated to support and coordinate the testing activities based on the described use cases. EPRI and SGIP recently hosted live OpenFMB demonstrations and another demo is scheduled to be showcased at the February DistribuTECH conference. As the effort continues and more test beds are developed, the task force will leverage the input received from interested utilities to expand the scope of the use cases for the project.

To foster communications on the OpenFMB standards development effort among industry participants, NAESB has included discussion on the topic as an item on the Board Leadership, Executive Committee, and Monthly Update agendas as well as in discussions with FERC and state commission staff members.