##### December 7, 2023

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, Director, Wholesale Electric Quadrant

**RE: NAESB Electric Industry Registry**

For over a decade now, the NAESB Electric Industry Registry (EIR) has served as the central repository for information needed to support commercial, scheduling, and transmission management operations for the wholesale electric industry. In 2012, the NAESB EIR replaced the previous version of the tool, the NERC Transmission Site Information Network following a prior determination by NERC that the registry served a commercial function, as opposed to a reliability need, and as such, would be more appropriately housed within NAESB. The transition provided an opportunity to build a new system platform for the registry, allowing the wholesale electric industry to capitalize on advances in technology since the original tool construction. The new functionality supported by the NAESB EIR has allowed wholesale electric market participants to increase efficiencies of commercial processes by improving data accessibility and by supporting interoperability through greater consistency in data formatting as well as bolster cybersecurity by enabling the use of Public Key Infrastructure or PKI protocols.

NAESB, as the tool owner, manages the EIR and makes all determinations regarding the operation of the registry. Through a request for proposal process, NAESB chose OATI as the system administrator. In this role, OATI is responsible for maintaining the tool and providing day-to-day technical support. The EIR is self-funded by industry through a yearly subscription fee, and both NAESB and OATI are committed to working together to ensure the tool functions in a reliable manner, including through the implementation of periodic updates to upgrade software and enhance security protections. Over this past year, updates have been released to improve data validations, add new data query options, implement software patches, and upgrade the system framework.

As noted, the NAESB EIR plays a key role in the commercial cybersecurity protections used by the wholesale electric industry, including access control management. For instance, registration in the NAESB EIR is a pre-requisite to obtain access to an OASIS node, the FERC required tool used to scheduling transmission and make certain transmission service information available to all customers. Additionally, by supporting the registration of individual companies, the NAESB EIR provides a reliable, central registry of entities that are conducting commercial activities within the wholesale electric market, a foundational element of public key infrastructure (PKI) security. This enabled the wholesale electric industry to develop and implement the NAESB PKI Framework as the cybersecurity protocol across multiple commercial platforms, and FERC mandates the use of the NAESB PKI Framework by jurisdictional wholesale electric entities to protect certain commercial applications and functions, including OASIS nodes, the NAESB EIR, and electronic tagging systems used to facilitate the electronic transfer of energy.