**1. RECOMMENDED ACTION: EFFECT OF EC VOTE TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Accept as requested |  | Change to Existing Practice |
|  | Accept as modified below | X | Status Quo |
| X | Decline |  |  |

**2. TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT/MAINTENANCE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Per Request:** | **Per Recommendation:** |
| X | Initiation |  | Initiation |
|  | Modification |  | Modification |
|  | Interpretation |  | Interpretation |
|  | Withdrawal |  | Withdrawal |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Principle |  | Principle |
|  | Definition |  | Definition |
| X | Business Practice Standard |  | Business Practice Standard |
|  | Document |  | Document |
|  | Data Element |  | Data Element |
|  | Code Value |  | Code Value |
|  | X12 Implementation Guide |  | X12 Implementation Guide |
|  | Business Process Documentation |  | Business Process Documentation |

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

**SUMMARY:**

2025 RMQ Annual Plan Item 2.a / 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.c – Review cybersecurity protections, such as Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), that may be necessary to secure electronic communications for distributed energy resources (DERs), and develop business practices as needed

**Recommended Standards:**

The joint subcommittees recommend no action at this time.

**4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**a. Description of Request:**

2025 RMQ Annual Plan Item 2.a / 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 3.c – Review cybersecurity protections, such as Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), that may be necessary to secure electronic communications for distributed energy resources (DERs), and develop business practices as needed

**b. Description of Recommendation:**

The joint subcommittees recommend no action at this time.

**c. Business Purpose:**

The WEQ BPS, RMQ BPS, and WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee considered the cybersecurity protections necessary to help secure commercial electronic communications between various parties and identified a gap in the availability of cybersecurity best practices for safeguarding communication channels between DER aggregators, utilities, and system operators. The joint subcommittees held a series of meetings to discuss the potential development of NAESB Business Practice Standards in this area before making a determination to recommend no action at this time.

The joint subcommittees explored several possible areas of development, including interactions among DER aggregators and ISOs/RTOs and distribution utilities and DER aggregators. As discussed by the meeting participants, the determination was made not to move forward with development of and/or modification to WEQ Business Practice Standards as the security of commercial electronic interactions between wholesale electric market participants is likely addressed through existing market rules and processes. The participants also considered the development of cybersecurity-related standards to help secure commercial electronic information exchanges between a DER aggregator and distribution utility necessary to conduct transactions for distribution grid services. The participants reviewed several regulatory and industry developed white papers, including the NARUC-U.S. DoE Cybersecurity Baselines for Electric Distribution Systems and DERs and the Interim Implementation Guidance, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework, and the NARUC Grid Data Sharing Playbook. To help support possible standards development, the participants created a DER Aggregator-Distribution Utility Bidirectional Market-Based Communication Exchange Use Case to identify relevant cybersecurity goals and communication-related standards and protocols that parties could use to facilitate these exchanges. Based on discussions related to the use case development, the participants determined that there is not sufficient industry support to move forward with the development of RMQ Model Business Practices at this time.

**d. Commentary/Rationale of Subcommittee(s)/Task Force(s):**

See the following joint WEQ BPS/RMQ BPS/WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee Meeting Minutes:

* [October 23, 2023](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmqbps102323fm.docx)
* [November 15, 2023](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmqbps111523fm.docx)
* [December 5, 2023](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmqbps120523fm.docx)
* [October 30, 2024](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmq_bps103024fm.docx)
* [November 20, 2024](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmq_bps112024fm.docx)
* [January 15, 2025](https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmq_bps011525fm.docx)
* February 18, 2025