# Preview Tag Update

**Topic**: Currently different vendors enable their tag creating customers an ability to share a saved tag, before it’s been submitted, with other entities on the tag. During the CISS meeting one vendor stated that they have been doing this for 15 years. However, the sharing is limited to that vendor’s customers. Hence, not all entities on the saved tag have access to the same information; only the ones that subscribe to that vendor’s etag service will get those entities. Conversely, that vendor’s customers won’t see saved tags from entities that use a different service vendor. This creates an inconsistent view of information for everybody. Depending on who your counterparts are and which service vendor they use; entities will get a more or less complete picture. In a world with faster and faster scheduling, having an incomplete picture is not good for anyone.

The Preview tag request proposes to create a standardized method to enable sharing across vendors and get everyone a more complete picture.

During the 2019 meetings a number of topics were discussed that is summarized in this document together with some additional security considerations from the “NCSC-FERC-DOE-FBI Classified Analytics Exchange on Counterintelligence/Cyber Threats to the US Energy Sector For the North American Energy Standards Board”, Dec 17. 2019 meeting at the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda.

The security meeting impressed upon NAESB that resilience of systems is of outmost importance and having backup mechanism is critical. E-tagging used to have a fax backup option that currently is not workable. A Preview tag electronic exchange mechanism between Entities would be a viable resilience option.

**The mechanism to exchange the data.**

It is suggested that the use of the QueryAvailability concept to be used; i.e., the ability for an Agent Service to send a message to other Agent or Approval Services. This existing mechanism would send messages point-to-point thereby providing an additional path to communicate and making the system more resilient. The requestor would send the tag message directly to the desired entities.

**The message types**

The only supported message types would include distributeNewTag, Since the tag has not yet been submitted, the same message could be sent multiple times, overriding the previous versions. No change tracking is required since they are previews.

**Agent Service Functionality**

An agent service shall have the capability to create and send a preview tag using the distributeNewTag message to the entities on the tag. The receiving Agent shall have the ability to import a distributeNewTag message from another Agent Service.

**Approval Service Functionality**

An Approval Service shall have the ability to import a distributeNewTag message from an Agent Service.