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NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

Princeton Forrestal Village, 116-390 Village Boulevard, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5731

January 5, 2004

Ms. Rae McQuade
Executive Director
North American Energy Standards Board
1301 Fannin, Suite 2350
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Rae:

Maintaining the Transmission Service Information Network

As NERC and NAESB continue working together on electronic scheduling and OASIS protocols, the issue of who will continue to maintain the Transmission Service Information Network (TSIN) occasionally arises. To allay any concerns that NERC was expecting NAESB to take over this responsibility, we want to assure NAESB that NERC remains committed to maintaining TSIN.

A bit of history is in order...

History of TSIN. TSIN resulted from FERC Order 889, which established OASIS. The OASIS "How" Working Group wrote the Standards and Communications Protocols (S&CP) document defining the technical requirements of OASIS. The S&CP mandated a central registry of OASIS participants and service offerings, and, in 1996, NERC offered to create and house this registry. The S&CP does not specifically mention NERC, but it does reference <http://www.tsin.com> as the official registry site. NERC owns the TSIN domain.

NERC has since expanded the registry to include entities involved in electronic tagging. (In fact, electronic tagging is more dependent on the TSIN registry than OASIS applications.) We are also redesigning the TSIN registry to support the needs of the e-MARC PKI, better integrate with NERC's Names and Address Database (NADS), and improve the user interface "look and feel."

NERC support of TSIN. The usefulness of the TSIN database has certainly expanded beyond its original purpose, and we expect that NERC will continue to support this database for our purposes whether or not the OASIS or tagging requirements continued to exist.

We do not want to preclude other arrangements for supporting TSIN (or its possible alternatives) in the future; however, any changes to the current arrangement would only be made after discussion and consultation among all the relevant stakeholders.

Sincerely,