##### October 16, 2023

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, Director, Wholesale Gas and Retail Markets Quadrants

**RE: Cybersecurity for Distributed Energy Resources**

At the end of October, the Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ) Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS), the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) BPS, and the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee will hold an educational meeting in efforts to efficiently address a cybersecurity item on both the WEQ and RMQ annual plans. The subcommittees first met in early October to begin discussion on the cybersecurity protections, such as Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), that may be necessary to secure electronic communications for distributed energy resources (DERs). This effort is being co-chaired by Lisa Sieg of LG&E and KU, Joshua Phillips of Southwest Power Pool, Jim Buccigross of Group 8760 Inc., and Sam Watson of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. A series of joint meetings are now scheduled through the end of the year – on October 23rd, November 15th, and December 5th – to continue work on the standards development effort.

As part of this annual plan item, the subcommittee participants may consider a range of communications between DER devices and several entities, including utilities, DER aggregators, system operators, and any other parties that exchange communications related to DERs. During the upcoming educational meeting, the participants will review and discuss industry resources, including several white papers, the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, and the NISTIR 8473 NIST Framework Profile for Electric Vehicle Extreme Fast Charging Infrastructure. Lila Kee of GlobalSign will provide a presentation containing an overview of NISTIR 8473 and its broader applicability in the area of cybersecurity for DERs. As always, NAESB meetings are open to all interested parties.