##### December 3, 2019

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, NAESB Deputy Director

**RE:** Update to the Board of Directors – RMQ/WEQ/WGQ Surety Assessment

In October, the WEQ finished addressing all recommendations to address the assigned recommendations to mitigate security issues identified by Sandia National Laboratories as part of the surety assessment. On October 3, 2019, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee and the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee jointly voted out a recommendation proposing modifications to the WEQ OASIS Suite of Business Practice Standards to address all jointly assigned security issues and the jointly assigned findings or considerations. The formal comment period for the recommendation closed on November 4, 2019. On October 10, 2019, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee voted out a recommendation proposing modifications to the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities to address the remaining security issues assigned to the WEQ and several of the remaining assigned additional findings or considerations. The formal comment period for the recommendation closed on November 8, 2019. Both recommendations and all formal comments will be forwarded to the WEQ Executive Committee for consideration. The WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee will reconvene to address the remaining assigned additional findings or considerations.

On December 2, 2019, recommendations were voted out of subcommittee to address recommendations to mitigate security issues and additional findings or considerations identified by Sandia National Laboratories as part of the surety assessment assigned to the RMQ and WGQ. The RMQ Information Requirements and Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee (IR/TEIS) and WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) Subcommittee began meeting jointly in August and developed a recommendation proposing modifications to the RMQ EDM Model Business Practices, the WGQ EDM Business Practice Standards, the RMQ Internet Electronic Transport (IET) Model Business Practices, and the WGQ IET Business Practice Standards. In anticipation of this vote, the RMQ Executive Committee shortened the formal comment period from 30 days to 15 days so the recommendation can be considered during an upcoming December 18, 2019 meeting of the RMQ Executive Committee. The WGQ formal comment period closes on January 3, 2019. The WGQ EDM Subcommittee will reconvene to address the remaining assigned additional findings or considerations.

The Board Digital Committee has been asked to review the remaining recommendations from Sandia National Laboratories not specifically assigned to a RMQ, WEQ, or WGQ Subcommittee and discuss potential responses. The committee held initial conversations on this topic during its meeting on October 2, 2019.

Sandia National Laboratories provided NAESB with the final reports on the surety assessment on July 22, 2019: (1) Assessment Report of the NAESB Public Key Infrastructure Program; (2) Assessment Report of the NAESB OASIS Standards; (3) Assessment Report of the NAESB Business Operations Practices and Standards; and (4) Addendum Report: Threat-based Examination of NAESB Standards and Business Operations. As part of these reports, Sandia National Laboratories made twelve recommendations to mitigate security issues and identified twenty-two additional findings or considerations. To help meet the request by the Department of Energy that, where possible, NAESB expediate any standards development efforts resulting from the surety assessment, the Board Critical Infrastructure Committee held two meetings in August to review the reports and provide context to the assigned standard development items.