##### November 27, 2017

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, NAESB Deputy Director

**RE: Green Button Update**

In 2018, the review and update of the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Model Business Practices will be a major effort within NAESB. As you may remember, ESPI provides an industry-standard XML format and a data exchange protocol for the exchange of a retail customer’s energy usage information between their designated data custodian and an authorized third-party service provider. Serving as the critical foundation for the Green Button, the ESPI Model Business Practices provide best practices, use cases, models, and an XML schema that facilitate the exchange of the energy usage information. Recently, NAESB and the Green Button Alliance (GBA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to define the relationship that the two organizations will share regarding the ESPI Model Business Practices and the Green Button Certified Download My Data, Connect My Data, and other future GBA certification programs. As part of the MOU, in exchange for providing free access to the XML Schema, the GBA will provide its resources to assist in the updates of ESPI and will require valid, legal access to the ESPI model business practices as a condition of certification within any Green Button related certification programs – currently the Green Button Certified Download My Data and Green Button Certified Connect My Data programs. The release of the NAESB ESPI XML schema under an open source license was a one-time exception discussed and approved by the NAESB Managing Committee.

Launched in 2012, the Green Button Initiative is a response to the White House call to action that challenged utilities to provide their customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage data via a “Green Button” on their websites. Since the Green Button Initiative started in the United States, over 150 utilities and service providers have committed to providing more than 60 million US households with access to Green Button data. In Canada, more than half of the Ontario-based consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses, now have access to their Green Button data. In 2012, the Green Button was presented to Ontario with the support of the Ministry of Energy. Also, the Green Button Initiative was promoted in Ontario’s 2013 *Long-Term Energy Plan* as a way to give consumers access to their electricity consumption data. Most recently, *Ontario’s Five Year Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020* committed to expanding Green Button province-wide to let “Ontarians access and share their data on electricity, natural gas and water consumption in a secure, standardized electronic format.” NAESB and the Ontario Ministry of Energy staff frequently hold discussions regarding Green Button efforts. The Ontario Ministry of Energy has previously utilized the NAESB REQ.21 –ESPI Model Business Practices within a reference architecture guide for Green Button implementation in its jurisdiction. In the past years, NAESB has helped facilitate the participation of over seventy-seven Ontarian utility companies in the Ontario Green Button program and looks forward to any future coordination efforts with the Ontario Ministry of Energy.