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NAESB Board Approves Retail Gas, Retail Electric Quadrants; Promotional Dues Also Approved

WASHINGTON—Three of the four quadrants of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) are in existence following votes by the NAESB Board of Directors yesterday.

At a meeting of the board at the American Gas Association's offices here, the board accepted quadrant procedures for the retail electric and retail gas quadrants. Those two quadrants join the wholesale gas quadrant, which came into existence on Jan. 1 as the successor to the Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB).

In another important action, the board approved promotional dues requested by the organizers of the retail gas and retail electric quadrants. The special dues of \$500 a year—one-tenth of the regular NAESB dues of \$5,000 a year—will be in effect until Dec. 31, 2003, and be applicable to no more than three representatives of organizations representing residential end users in each quadrant. There will be an open season until April 15, 2002, to identify interested consumer advocacy groups.

Residential end user representatives joining NAESB by paying the promotional dues would be voting members of the end user segment of each retail quadrant.

It's extremely gratifying that three NAESB quadrants are in operation less than three months after NAESB's formation, said board Chairman Bill Boswell, assistant corporate secretary of Dominion and a partner in McGuireWoods LLP. This is a testimonial to the hard work put in by the Joint Electric and Gas Retail Working Group in developing procedures for these two quadrants.

Boswell noted that the board had discussed the progress of industry meetings over the fourth NAESB quadrant, wholesale electric. I'm confident that the wholesale electric quadrant will be in full operation this year, he said. The wholesale electric industry recognizes the need for an organization to develop business practice standards and the value of the NAESB process, and I believe that a proposed structure for this quadrant is close to completion.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a Dec. 19 order called on the wholesale electric industry to make a filing by March 15 on a single standards organization.

NAESB Executive Director Rae McQuade said, We're looking forward to working out the details of how a multiple-quadrant NAESB will operate. It will be an excellent opportunity for us to learn from each other and share our respective strengths.

NAESB, formed in December 2001, is modeled after GISB, which was established in September 1994 as an independent and voluntary North American organization to develop and promote the use of business practice and related electronic communications standards.

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