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NAESB Gas-Electric Coordination Task Force Makes Final Report To FERC; Three Standards Requests Are Result of Task Force Work

HOUSTON—A task force of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) formed to study issues of coordination between the natural gas and electric industries has filed its final report with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The Gas-Electric Coordination Task Force (GECTF) met from December 2003 to August 2004. Its report to FERC on its activities includes issues identified, a level of categorization of these issues, and identification of issues for further consideration through the possible development of NAESB standards.

The report noted that three standards development requests have resulted from the task force's efforts:

- A request (R04016) by KeySpan Utility Services and Duke Energy Gas Transmission for development of a standard gas-electric energy day.
- A request (R04020) by the Tennessee Valley Authority to develop business practice standards relating to electric transaction scheduling and timelines.

A request (RO4021) by Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America,
CrossCountry Energy and Salt River Project to address daily communications between pipelines and entities that control power generation facilities.

Work on the energy day standards request has already begun, the report noted. The first meeting on this issue was held Dec. 1 and 2 at KeySpan's offices in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The report also pointed out that the NAESB Board of Directors at its September 2004 meeting formed a board-level Gas-Electric Interdependency Committee. "The mission of the committee is to review issues requiring gas-electric interdependency at an executive level and identify actions that may result in additional NAESB standards development," the report said.

NAESB Board Chairman Michael Desselle, director of public policy, American Electric Power, said, "The GECTF's work was an important first step in identifying ways in which the gas and electric industries can work together to create a seamless energy market that provides efficient, cost-effective service to consumers."

Commented NAESB Executive Director Rae McQuade, "The standards requests that resulted from the GECTF's effort will require hard work and a great deal of cooperation between NAESB's Wholesale Gas Quadrant and Wholesale Electric Quadrant. It's encouraging that with the energy day meetings this week, that effort is already under way."

Copies of the report are available to the press upon request.

NAESB, formed in January 2002, is an independent and voluntary North American organization that develops and promotes the use of business practices and electronic communications standards for the wholesale and retail natural gas and electricity industries. NAESB is the successor to and is modeled after the Gas Industry Standards Board, which was established in 1994 and now constitutes the wholesale gas quadrant of NAESB. NAESB's members include over 300 companies and organizations that participate actively in the retail and wholesale natural gas and electricity markets.