Via email and posting

February 9, 2016

**TO:** NAESB Board of Directors, Gas-Electric Harmonization (GEH) Forum and Interested Parties

**cc:** NAESB Advisory Council

**FROM:** North American Energy Standards Board Office

**RE:** Announcement & Agenda for the GEH Forum Meeting – February 18-19, 2016

Dear Board Members, GEH Forum Participants and Interested Parties,

Thank you for your interest in the efforts of NAESB to respond to the request of the NAESB Board of Directors, through participation in the NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization (GEH) Forum. As you know, on April 16, 2015 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issued FERC Order No. 809 (Order) and made a specific request of the industry to work through NAESB to “…explore the potential for faster, computerized scheduling when shippers and confirming parties all submit electronic nominations and confirmations, including a streamlined confirmation process if necessary.” To address this request, the NAESB Board of Directors reactivated the GEH Forum and assigned it to the 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 7.a[[1]](#footnote-1) and 2016 WGQ Annual Plan Item 3.a.[[2]](#footnote-2) To initiate efforts, the GEH Forum held an organizational conference call/web cast and reviewed a timeline for the project, a meeting schedule and a request for presentations that was distributed to the industry on January 12, 2016.

To continue efforts, the NAESB GEH Forum will hold its first face-to-face meeting on February 18-19, 2016 in Houston, Texas to review and discuss the presentations submitted by interested industry participants. The meeting will take place at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Houston[[3]](#footnote-3) from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm C the first day, and 8:30 am to 2:00 pm C the second day. NAESB does not have a room block at the Double Tree. The meeting will be available by conference call and web cast for those unable to travel. In addition to participating in person or via conference call/webcast, any interested party can ensure that their perspectives are presented and made a part of the record through written comments. Broad participation will ensure that our board receives robust information and a meaningful record when determining the best manner in which to proceed.

**To participate in this meeting, please provide an RSVP to the office (drager@naesb.org, 713-356-0060) by the close of business on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.** When you RSVP (to participate by phone or in person), you will be assessed a $200 per person meeting fee charge to defray the costs of holding the meetings. Any participant who is with a state or federal regulatory agency or is a representative of a consumer advocacy group is exempt from the meeting fee. After you RSVP, you will receive an email confirmation with instructions for payment of the meeting fee. When indicating your intent to participate, please provide the following registration information –

• Name

• Company

• Representation in either the Wholesale Gas or Wholesale Electric Quadrant

• Segment representation (Descriptions provided in the background documents as part of the attached agenda)

• Participation by conference call/web cast or in-person.

You should select only one segment and only one quadrant. RSVPs are particularly important for these meetings to ensure we have adequate space and enough phone lines for those participating through conference calling. For those participating by conference call/webcast, your email confirmation will include the call in information. A registration list will be made available prior to the meeting.

Please note that the lunch break is scheduled for more than an hour, as lunch will not be provided during the meeting. Also, should you bring laptops or other electronic devices, please ensure your battery is fully charged as power strips are not available. If you need access to the internet, please bring your own Wi-Fi device. Complimentary internet access is available in the lobby.

All those that RSVP for the meetings will be added to the distribution list unless it is specifically requested otherwise. If you received this notice and would like to be removed from the distribution list, please contact the NAESB office. If you know of any colleagues that may have interest in attending this conference call/web cast or in following NAESB efforts in this area, please feel free to forward this invitation and have the interested parties contact the NAESB office to be added to the distribution list.

Prior to this conference call/web cast and future meetings, participants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the NAESB Antitrust and Other Meeting Policies (<http://www.naesb.org/misc/antitrust_guidance.doc>) and be aware that the meetings will be transcribed and may be attended by members of the press.

Again, thank you for your interest and please do not hesitate to call our office if you need additional information.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In paragraph 107 of the Order, the Commission stated the following.

“While NAESB’s modified standards represent an improvement over the currently effective standards, we continue to recognize that additional intraday nomination opportunities could promote more efficient use of existing pipeline infrastructure and provide additional operational flexibility to all pipeline shippers, including gas-fired generators. The modified NAESB standards reflect reduced intraday processing times from the current NAESB standards (i.e., three hours instead of the current four hours), and existing operational limitations, including the manual processes utilized by pipelines for processing nominations, may affect the ability of the gas industry to add additional standard nomination cycles applicable to all shippers. However, the use of computerized scheduling would appear to provide an opportunity for faster and more frequent scheduling of intraday nominations for those shippers and their confirming parties willing to commit to scheduling electronically. ***We request that gas and electric industries, through NAESB, explore the potential for faster, computerized scheduling when shippers and confirming parties all submit electronic nominations and confirmations, including a streamlined confirmation process if necessary.*** Providing such an option would enable those entities that need greater scheduling flexibility to have their requests processed expeditiously.”

Following the Order, on September 17, 2015 the Commission issued an Order on Rehearing in docket no. RM14-02-001and in paragraph 1 requested that NAESB provide the Commission with standards or a report on the development of standards related to related to faster, computerized scheduling by October 17, 2016.[[4]](#footnote-4)

¶1 “In Order No. 809, the Commission revised its regulations relating to the scheduling of transportation service on interstate natural gas pipelines to better coordinate the scheduling practices of the wholesale natural gas and electric industries, as well as to provide additional scheduling flexibility to all shippers on interstate natural gas pipelines. The Commission also requested that natural gas and electric industries, through the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB), explore the potential for faster, computerized scheduling when shippers and confirming parties all submit electronic nominations and confirmations, including a streamlined confirmation process if necessary. On May 18, 2015, the Desert Southwest Pipeline Stakeholders (DSPS) filed a request for rehearing of Order No. 809. On August 4, 2015, NAESB filed a report indicating that due to the press of implementing the revised nomination standards by April 1, 2016, it would not begin the development of computerized scheduling standards until after that date. As discussed below, the Commission denies DSPS’ request for rehearing and directs El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C. (El Paso), Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC (Transwestern), and TransCanada-North Baja Pipelines (TransCanada-North Baja) to make an informational filing within 90 days of the date of this order. ***In addition, while we recognize the time commitments in implementing the revised nomination timeline, the Commission requests that the natural gas and electric industries, through NAESB, begin considering the development of standards related to faster, computerized scheduling and file such standards or a report on the development of such standards with the Commission by October 17, 2016.***”

WEQ & WGQ NAESB ANNUAL PLANS:

To respond to the Order and the subsequent Order on Rehearing, the NAESB Board of Directors, during the December 10, 2015 meeting, reactivated the NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization (GEH) Forum and tasked it with addressing 2016 WEQ Annual Plan Item 7.a and 2016 WGQ Annual Plan Item 3.a. Specifically, the annual plan items require the GEH Forum to do the following.

Review FERC Order No. 809 ¶ 107 issued in Docket No. RM14-2-000 regarding computerized scheduling and provide recommended direction concerning the development of standards or modifications to existing standards as needed to support the request of the Commission. The recommended direction will require two-step board approval, for both the timeline to be pursued and the framework for standards development.

NAESB BOARD OF DIRECTORS GUIDANCE:

As additional guidance the board directed the GEH Forum to address the item through the following steps.

1. Provide a forum for industry education from both the natural gas and electric industries regarding gas-electric coordination specific to computerized scheduling, and confirmations including a streamlined confirmation process, if necessary ([FERC Order No. 809 Order on Rehearing, Docket No. RM14-2-001](https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/ferc091715_order809_order_on_rehearing.docx))
2. Identify potential issues specific to computerized scheduling, and confirmations including a streamlined confirmation process, if necessary which could be based on the education provided in step 1
3. Identify potential solutions to the issues identified in step 2
4. Identify potential schedules for standards development

PREVIOUS WORK PAPERS:

* NAESB GEH Forum Distribution List as of January 12, 2016: <http://www.naesb.org/pdf4/naesb_geh_forum_distlist_2016.doc>
* Antitrust Guidance: <http://www.naesb.org/misc/antitrust_guidance.doc>
* FERC Order No. 809: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/comm-meet/2015/041615/M-1.pdf>
* FERC Order on Rehearing on FERC Order No. 809: <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/ferc091715_order809_order_on_rehearing.docx>
* FERC Order No. 809 Timeline: <https://www.naesb.org/misc/ferc_order809_historical_timeline.doc>
* NAESB Board of Directors Meeting – December 10, 2015: [https://www.naesb.org//pdf4/bd121015dm.docx](https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/bd121015dm.docx)
* 2016 WEQ Annual Plan: <http://www.naesb.org/pdf4/weq_2016_annual_plan.docx>
* 2016 WGQ Annual Plan: <http://www.naesb.org/pdf4/wgq_2016_annual_plan.docx>
* GEH Forum Schedule of Meetings: <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/geh012516w2.doc>
* GEH Forum Request for Presentations: <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/geh012516w1.doc>
* Description of NAESB Quadrant Segments and Balanced Voting Process: <http://www.naesb.org/pdf4/geh_040114am_w1.doc>

Information on all NAESB activities can be found at <http://www.naesb.org>, and for GEH Forum activities at <http://www.naesb.org/naesb_geh_forum.asp>.

**NAESB GAS-ELECTRIC HARMONIZATION FORUM**

**Meeting**

**Thursday, February 18, 2016 – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Central**

**Friday, February 19, 2016 – 8:30 am to 2:00 pm Central**

**Available by Phone and Web Cast**

**In Person Attendance Double Tree Downtown[[5]](#footnote-5), Houston, Texas – La Salle B**

**agenda**

**Thursday 8:00 am Coffee**

**Thursday 8:30 am 1. Administrative and Organizational Review**

Welcome

Antitrust Guidance

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Draft GEH Minutes

**Thursday 9:00 am 2. Process Review**

**Thursday 9:30 am 3. Presentations and Discussion[[6]](#footnote-6)**

NAESB WGQ Pipeline Segment

PJM

ACES Power

**Thursday 12:30 pm Lunch**

**Thursday 2:00 pm** Fidelity National Information Services

Skipping Stone

**Thursday 4:00 pm Closing Remarks and Planning for Day 2**

**Tuesday 5:00 pm Suspend For the Day**

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**agenda**

**Friday 8:00 am Coffee**

**Friday 8:30 am Call the meeting to order**

**Friday 9:00 am 3. Presentations and Discussion *(Continued)***

Environmental Defense Fund

Coalition of Energy Technology Firms

OATI, Inc.

**Friday 12:00 pm Lunch**

**Friday 1:30 pm 4. Closing Remarks and Planning for Next Meeting**

**Friday 2:00 pm 5. Adjourn**

WORK PAPERS

NAESB RSVP List as of February 9, 2016: <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/naesb_geh_forum_rsvp_021816.pdf>

NAESB GEH Forum Distribution List as of February 9, 2016: <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/naesb_geh_forum_distlist_2016.doc>

Antitrust Guidance: <http://www.naesb.org/misc/antitrust_guidance.doc>

GEH Forum January 25 Draft Minutes: <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/geh012516notes.docx>

*Presentations, Comments and Supporting Documentation will be posted as they are received on the NAESB Web Site and forwarded to the RSVP list for the meeting*. *Background information can be found on page 4 of this packet.*

1. The 2016 WEQ Annual Plan can be found through the following hyperlink: <http://www.naesb.org/pdf4/weq_2016_annual_plan.docx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The 2016 WGQ Annual Plan can be found through the following hyperlink: <http://www.naesb.org/pdf4/wgq_2016_annual_plan.docx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Double Tree Hotel is located in downtown Houston, 400 Dallas Street, Houston, Texas, 77002, Phone -- 713-759-0202. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. September 17, 2015 - FERC Order No. 809 Order on Rehearing (Docket No. RM14-2-001): <https://www.naesb.org/pdf4/ferc091715_order809_order_on_rehearing.docx> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Double Tree Hotel is located in downtown Houston, 400 Dallas Street, Houston, Texas, 77002, Phone -- 713-759-0202. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Each of the presenters have up to 25 minutes for presentations, followed by 30 minutes for clarifying questions, and a five minute period for transition to the next speaker. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Double Tree Hotel is located in downtown Houston, 400 Dallas Street, Houston, Texas, 77002, Phone -- 713-759-0202. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)