



## North American Energy Standards Board

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# NAESB Strategic Plan 2019-2021

## Mission

To propose, develop and adopt voluntary standards and model business practices designed to promote competitive and efficient natural gas and electric service; as such standards apply to electronic record formats and communications protocols and related business practices that streamline the transactional processes of the natural gas and electric industries.

## Vision

To create, develop and adopt voluntary business practice standards and model business practices that support efficient and secure energy markets.

## Core Values and Guiding Principles

The following core values and guiding principles serve as guidelines for all NAESB activities.

**Independence** – NAESB is an independent body. While it may have informal liaisons to trade associations, other standards organizations and government agencies, it should be a separately incorporated, fully independent, organization.

**Openness** – NAESB should conduct its activities in the open. Openness should apply to all aspects of its organizational governance, elections and Standards or Model Business Practices development processes, including work products and related meetings. The meetings, agendas and items set for discussion and/or possible vote should be publicly noticed, and interested parties, regardless of membership should have the opportunity to participate.

**Voluntary** – Participation in NAESB should be voluntary and adherence to its Standards and Model Business Practices should, from NAESB's perspective, also be voluntary. Membership should not be dependent upon whether the company seeking membership implements the Standards and Model Business Practices. NAESB will not maintain any type of enforcement activity.

**Balance of Interests** – The voting with respect to governance, Standards, Model Business Practices, and Operating Practices should provide for balance among industry Segments and Quadrants participating in NAESB so as to avoid any one interest group or group of interests having the ability to exert undue influence over any decision.

**Inclusivity** – All interested parties have the opportunity to participate in the activities of the standards organization and to join NAESB. All participants should be identified and associated with a Segment and Quadrant.

**Consensus-Based Decisions** – The voting rules should be constructed so that decisions based upon consensus are encouraged. In addition, with respect to voting upon the Standards or Model Business Practices issued or to be issued by NAESB, energy Quadrants and their Segments should be assured that each energy Quadrant and its Segments can protect its interests by requiring both super-majorities and a minimum per Segment, and that a per Quadrant threshold be achieved for passage of such Standards and Model Business Practices by NAESB.



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**No Advocacy** – NAESB should be prohibited from taking advocacy positions on its Standards or Model Business Practices as a party to any proceeding before a governmental agency. This is not intended to preclude NAESB’s duly authorized representatives from educating or communicating with any group as to NAESB’s procedures and/or work product(s).

**Membership Driven** – NAESB should be membership driven. The paid staff should perform administrative functions to support NAESB’s activities. Requests for Standard(s) or Model Business Practices should be proposed by identified persons and not by NAESB or its committees and subcommittees. NAESB’s staff should neither have a vote nor a role with respect to conducting the affairs of NAESB other than to provide ministerial functions.

**Develop Practices, Not Policy** – The committees, subcommittees and task forces of NAESB should endeavor not to create policy in their Standards or Model Business Practices development activities absent being requested to do so by the Board.

**Incorporate Best Practices** – To the extent reasonable, the Standards and Model Business Practices to be established should reflect standardization and streamlining of activities chosen as best practices from among existing and reasonably anticipated policies and practices.

**Broad Applicability** – To the extent reasonable, the Standards and Model Business Practices to be established should be structured such that they can be applicable to both the electric and natural gas industries. The two industries should work together to develop Standards and Model Business Practices when joint Standards and Model Business Practices are appropriate. However, where operating requirements dictate the need for different approaches, discrete Standards and Model Business Practices will be established separately by Quadrant(s).

**ANSI Accreditation** – NAESB is an American National Standards Institute Standards Development Organization.

## Strategic Goals 2019-2021

NAESB has identified four goals in the following strategic areas: Standards; Certification; Tool Management; and Coordination and Collaboration.

**Goal 1: Standards** - To develop business practice standards and model business practices that support the commercial needs of the wholesale and retail natural gas and electric markets.

**Objective 1:** Business practice standards and model business practices will be clear and concise.

### Key Deliverables:

- When possible and appropriate, all business practice standards and model business practices will be distributed for an informal industry wide comment period by subcommittees and/or task forces during the standards drafting process.
- All draft business practice standards and model business practices will be distributed for a formal industry wide thirty-day comment period before being reviewed by the appropriate Executive Committee(s).
- All draft business practice standards and model business practices and industry comments will be reviewed by the appropriate Executive Committee(s) with the authority to make any necessary edits prior to adoption and distribution for quadrant ratification.

**Objective 2:** Business practice standards and model business practices will reflect a wide range of industry participation and interests.



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## Key Deliverables:

- Membership in NAESB is open to all interested parties.
- The submission of standards development requests and participation in the standards development process is open to all interested parties despite membership status.
- All draft business practice standards and model business practices will be distributed for a formal industry wide thirty-day comment period before being reviewed by the appropriate Executive Committee(s).

**Objective 3:** Business practice standards and model business practices will be developed in a timely and efficient manner.

## Key Deliverables:

- Resource availability and deadlines for the development of all business practice standards and model business practices will be established and managed by the NAESB Board of Directors through the quadrant annual plans.
- Open discussion and responses to questions concerning the standards development process of individual business practice standards and model business practices will be facilitated by NAESB staff.

**Objective 4:** Business practice standards and model business practices will be relevant.

## Key Deliverables:

- Resource availability and deadlines for the development of all business practice standards and model business practices will be established and managed by the NAESB Board of Directors through the quadrant annual plans.
- Open discussion and responses to questions concerning the standards development process of individual business practice standards and model business practices will be facilitated by NAESB staff.

**Goal 2: Certification** - To support the commercial needs of the wholesale and retail natural gas and electric markets through certification programs.

**Objective 1:** Certification will provide transparency into the relevant products and/or services offered by parties claiming NAESB certification.

## Key Deliverables:

- Require and make available any documentation that supports compliance with the requirements for individual certification programs.
- All requests for the development of certification programs will be considered by the Board of Directors.
- The development and maintenance of NAESB certification programs will be the responsibility of the Board Certification Program Committee.

**Goal 3: Tool Management** - To manage tools that efficiently supports industry commercial functions.

**Objective 1:** NAESB will be responsive to the needs of the industry in the management of commercially related tools.

## Key Deliverables:

- Maintenance of a process whereby enhancements to the NAESB managed tool can be implemented when supported by industry.
- NAESB staff, with support of the Board of Directors, will establish and maintain relationships with any vendors or service providers engaged in the implementation of NAESB managed tool.



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- All requests for the adoption or development of commercially related tools will be considered by the Board of Directors.

**Goal 4: Coordination and Collaboration** - To coordinate and collaborate with industry participants, both member and non-member parties, and external organizations in support of the goals of the industry and of NAESB.

**Objective 1:** NAESB will maintain relationships with industry stakeholders and ensure that the organization is inclusive and responsive to all interested parties.

**Key Deliverables:**

- Participate in industry activities including conferences, seminars, forums and other industry gatherings that are supportive of industry and the organization.
- Offer courses to interested parties, both members and non-members, related to the business practice standards and model business practices and other NAESB work products.
- Execute of the NAESB Communications Strategy.

**Objective 2:** NAESB will maintain working relationships with external industry organizations and regulators.

**Key Deliverables:**

- NAESB staff will continue to maintain an open dialog and hold regular meetings with the staff and leadership of external organizations and regulators relevant to the goals of NAESB and supportive of the industry.
  - These organizations include, but are not limited to, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, the National Petroleum Council, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, individual state commissions, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the American National Standards Institute, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, trade organizations, and other various industry organizations, forums, coalitions, councils and collaborations.