##### February 26, 2019

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: WEQ Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Update**

During its December meeting, the NAESB Board of Directors added new items to each quadrant’s 2019 annual plan directing a review of the Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment Report and the development and/or modifications of NAESB Business Practice Standards as needed.  The additions to the annual plans were added in anticipation of the delivery of the final report on the surety assessment being performed by Sandia National Laboratories. Based on the initial draft reports provided by Sandia National Laboratories, the findings assess and will likely impact the WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure Business Practice Standards, the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities, the WEQ OASIS Suite of Business Practice Standards, the WGQ Quadrant Electronic Delivery Mechanism Related Standards Manual, the RMQ Quadrant Electronic Delivery Mechanism Model Business Practices, and the WGQ/RMQ Internet Electronic Transport Business Practice Standards.  However, there is the potential that the final reports on the surety assessment may include findings or recommendations related to additional business practice standards.  These areas of the standards are addressed by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee, the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee, the WGQ EDM Subcommittee, and the RMQ Information Requirements and Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee.

In discussions concerning the forthcoming final reports on the surety assessment, the Department of Energy has requested that, where possible, NAESB expedite our standard development process.  To assist in these efforts, the Board Critical Infrastructure Committee has committed to reviewing the final reports on the surety assessment and providing context to any recommendations that may result in standards development.  The committee has already begun efforts to address this task by developing work papers based on the updated draft reports provided by Sandia National Laboratories on January 25, 2019.  These work papers group together the various findings contained in the draft reports and will help the committee create a defined framework for standards development to address any clearly articulated recommendations from Sandia National Laboratories.

To ensure a timely completion of any resulting standard modifications, NAESB will work with the committee, quadrant executive committee leadership, and the subcommittee chairs to ensure there are adequate resources allocated for the efforts.  Upon completion of the standard development activities, NAESB will file any ratified WEQ and WGQ Business Practice Standards with the FERC, and make any modifications to the RMQ Business Practice Standards available to NARUC and state commissions.