##### November 28, 2022

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, Director, Wholesale Electric Quadrant

**RE: Cybersecurity Update**

Currently, the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ are in the process of reorganizing their standards in order to move existing cybersecurity-related business practices into a new suite of NAESB Business Practice Standards for each quadrant. As you may recall, these activities are supportive of direction provided by the NAESB Board of Directors to address an informal recommendation made as part of the 2019 Surety Assessment. The recommendation, made by the U.S. Department of Energy and Sandia National Laboratories, asked that NAESB, working with FERC, consider potential methods by which the timeline for industry implementation of cybersecurity-related business practice standards could be expediated. NAESB staff has been in contact with FERC staff throughout the NAESB Board-level discussions on this topic and the efforts of the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ, with FERC staff indicating support for NAESB to move forward with this change as part of the next publication of the WEQ and WGQ Business Practice Standards. FERC Commissioners have also been informed.

On October 18, 2022, the WEQ Executive Committee approved a minor correction recommendation to create the new suite of WEQ Business Practice Standards for existing cyber-security related requirements, and on November 18, 2022, the committee approved, via notational ballot, additional changes for consistency proposed as part of the formal comment period on the minor correction recommendation. In total, the new suite of standards will include thirteen existing business practices containing cybersecurity elements that relate to OASIS, electronic tagging, and the NAESB Electric Industry Registry. The changes will be reflected in Version 003.4 of the WEQ Business Practice Standards, anticipated to be published next year. The WGQ and RMQ are working jointly to address similar requests for minor correction and anticipate presenting recommendations to the WGQ and RMQ Executive Committees, respectively, during their next meetings in March 2023.

Also, during the October meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee approved a recommendation developed by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee proposing modifications to the WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure Business Practice Standards and *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities*. WEQ membership ratified the revisions to the WEQ-012 Business Practice Standards on November 18, 2022, and the new version of the *NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities* became effective upon approval by the WEQ Executive Committee. The modifications will support forthcoming changes in the issuance of TLS or server-side certificates by certificate authorities, including the NAESB Authorized Certificate Authorities.

As done every year, the WGQ, and RMQ are also undertaking annual review of their existing standards to determine if any modifications or additions regarding cybersecurity elements. The WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) and RMQ Information Requirements/Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee (IR/TEIS) will be meeting jointly to review the WGQ and RMQ Internet Electronic Transport Business Practice Standards and identify and eliminate any legacy data that may no longer be utilized.