##### February 16, 2022

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, NAESB Director

**RE: Cybersecurity Update**

Cybersecurity remains a key focus within NAESB with the organization undertaking several activities this year to ensure both the organization and the standards it develops are meeting the needs of the wholesale and retail gas and electric markets.  In December, the Board of Directors approved the 2022 Annual Plans which included cybersecurity related efforts for the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ.  This year, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee will be undertaking its annual review of the WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure Business Practice Standards and the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities to determine if any modifications are necessary to meet changing market conditions and/or to support the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards or other NERC/FERC related cybersecurity activities.  Based on last year’s review, the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee identified several NERC CIP related standard projects as well as two FERC Notice of Inquiry proceedings to monitor in 2022.  These include NERC Project 2016-02 Modifications to CIP Standards, NERC Project 2020-03 Supply Chain Low Impact Revisions, and Project 2020-04 Modifications to CIP-012 as well as FERC Potential Enhancements to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards Notice of Inquiry (issued on June 18, 2020 in Docket No. RM20-12-000), and the FERC Equipment and Services Produced or Provided by Certain Entities Identified as Risks to National Security Notice of Inquiry (issued on September 17, 2020 in Docket No. RM20-19-000).  Also, in 2022, the WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism Subcommittee and the RMQ Information Requirements and Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee will meet jointly to identify and remove any legacy data that may be included in the WGQ and RMQ Internet Electronic Transport Business Practice Standards.

In addition to these standard development activities, this year, NAESB will be continuing to evaluate potential actions that can be taken to address the informal recommendation made by Sandia National Laboratories as part of the 2019 Surety Assessment that the organization, working with FERC and the Department of Energy, evaluate potential paths for how the industry can expediate the process by which it develops, adopts, and implements cybersecurity related standards.  Last year, the Board Strategy Committee identified several proposals to address the informal recommendation and sought feedback through a survey distributed to members of the NAESB Advisory Council and Board of Directors.  The results of the survey were reviewed by the Board Strategy Committee during its meeting on November 30, 2021 as well as by the Board of Directors during its December 9, 2021 meeting.  As discussed during the Board of Directors meeting, NAESB will be further considering the creation of quadrant-specific books of standards that would contain all WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ cybersecurity-related requirements, respectively.