##### March 14, 2018

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: Update to the Board of Directors – ESPI and OpenFMB**

Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI)

NAESB recently submitted comments in response to the Ontario Ministry of Energy’s November 29, 2017 *Regulatory Proposal for Province-Wide Implementation of Green Button*. If adopted, the proposed regulation would make it a requirement for Ontarian electric and natural gas utilities to implement Green Button Download My Data and Connect My Data programs. In the comments to the Ontario Ministry of Energy, NAESB outlined the early 2018 initiative to update the ESPI Model Business Practices. As a top industry priority in 2018, the review and update of the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface Model Business Practices (ESPI) is set to begin within the first or second quarter. As the foundation of the Green Button, ESPI, provides best practices, use cases, models, and an XML schema that facilitates the exchange of a retail customer’s energy usage data between their designated data custodian and an authorized third-party service provider. Currently ESPI is utilized in the gas and electric markets and may expand to water and solar as well. In fact, since the Green Button Initiative started in the United States in 2011, over 150 utilities and service providers have committed to providing more than 60 million US households with access to their energy usage information. Beginning as a response to the White House call to action challenging utilities to provide their customers with access to their energy usage information via a “Green Button” on their websites, the Green Button Initiative has now expanded beyond the borders of the United States. In Canada, more than half of the Ontario-based consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses, now have access to their Green Button data.

Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB)

On the heels of the Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) presentation and discussion at this year’s DistribuTECH Conference, the OpenFMB Task Force will soon announce its kickoff meeting to review RMQ.26 – OpenFMB Model Business Practices. As you may remember, OpenFMB was ratified by the NAESB membership in March of 2016 and was subsequently published in Version 3.1 of the NAESB RMQ publication that same month. OpenFMB is composed of a reference architecture and an implementation guideline that enables intelligent devices on the grid’s field area networks to use a nonproprietary platform that consists of Internet protocol (IP) networking, Internet of Things (IoT) messaging protocols, and common semantic models. Following the general, operational, and management model business practices that make up the bulk of RMQ.26, the book also contains XML Schema Definition (XSD) profiles, sample use case scenarios, and Platform Independent Model (PIM) information.

Under the 2018 RMQ Annual Plan Item 4 and Standards Request R14008, the task force will begin its work by developing security model business practices and discuss possible additional use cases to incorporate into the model business practices. At first, the development of OpenFMB focused on grid-edge technology, with three microgrid use cases serving as drivers for the effort – Microgrid Optimization, Microgrid Unscheduled Islanding Transition, and Microgrid Island to Grid Connected Transition. Since the publication of RMQ Version 3.1, several additional OpenFMB use cases have been considered to address DER Circuit Segment Management, Circuit Segment Optimization, Microgrid Unscheduled Islanding, and Microgrid Reconnection.

As part of the OpenFMB effort, NAESB staff has maintained open lines of communication with the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) to ensure that the organizations remain coordinated on any OpenFMB efforts. Ongoing discussions between NAESB and SEPA focus on the potential of an OpenFMB certification program, user group activities, and website management, among other topics.