##### August 15, 2023

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, Director, Wholesale Gas and Retail Markets Quadrants

**RE: Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) and Green Button Update**

This November, per Ontario Regulation 633/21, regulated electricity and natural gas utilities in Ontario will provide their retail customers with access to their Green Button energy usage information through the implementation of Version 3.3 of the NAESB Energy Services Provider Interface Model Business Practices (ESPI). Ontario is the first province to require the implementation of the Connect My Data and Download My Data programs. The regulation, issued last September, requires electric and natural gas utilities across the province to provide the ESPI-based Green Button “Download My Data” and “Connect My Data” programs and certify their implementations through the Green Button Alliance, a non-profit organization that works to advance Green Button implementation through marketing, education, testing, and certification. Since its first publication in the Fall of 2011, ESPI has served as the critical foundation for the Green Button, providing best practices, models, and XML schema that facilitate the exchange of energy usage information. ESPI provides a standardized XML format for the customer’s energy usage information and an exchange protocol.

In the last week of October, the RMQ Executive Committee will review at least two items that have been approved by the ESPI Task Force – the recommendation to update the cybersecurity-related practices within the REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices and a minor correction to provide clarification regarding stereotype representations.

In early August, the ESPI Task Force, chaired by Don Coffin of the Green Button Alliance (GBA), voted out the cybersecurity recommendation. Over the course of three meetings, the ESPI Task Force revised the ESPI Model Business Practices and reached a consensus on modifications, deleting references to TLS 1.2 (RFC5846) and updating references to other cyber security documents. During this time, the task force participants delayed voting on the draft recommendation in order to seek additional clarification from cybersecurity subject matter experts on cipher suites that are compatible with TLS 1.3. As stated, the subcommittee unanimously voted out the recommendation in August and it is now posted for a thirty-day formal comment period that concludes on September 8th. All interested parties are welcome to submit formal comments on the recommendation.

In June, the ESPI Task Force approved a minor correction submitted from the GBA that proposed the deletion of a phrase in the REQ.21.4.2 Energy Usage Information Model and the REQ.21.4.3 Retail Customer Information Model ESPI Model Business Practices in order to indicate that certain stereotype representations are navigable. The minor correction and, if approved, the recommendation for the annual plan item discussed above, will be reviewed by the RMQ Executive Committee during its next meeting along with any formal comments received on the items.