##### November 27, 2017

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, NAESB Deputy Director

**RE: Update to the Board of Directors – Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment**

The Sandia National Laboratories Surety Assessment is well-underway, and per communications from Sandia National Laboratories, on track to be completed by the end of 2017 or early 2018. In recognition of the forthcoming assessment, the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ Annual Plan Subcommittees all included a 2018 provisional annual plan item to develop and/or modify standards if needed to address any recommendations resulting from the surety assessment. The 2018 Annual Plans will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval during the December 14, 2017 meeting.

Recently, Sandia National Laboratories communicated to NAESB a [Surety Assessment Tasking Document](https://naesb.org/pdf4/bd_cic120417w1.docx) that details the scope of the surety assessment. The scope includes the WGQ and RMQ Internet Electronic Transport and Electronic Delivery Mechanism Standards and the NAESB Certification Program for Accredited Certification Authorities, which is comprised of the WEQ Public Key Infrastructure Standards, the Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities, and the Authorized Certification Authority Process. The Board Critical Infrastructure Committee has scheduled a meeting for December 4, 2017 to discuss and review the scope document. Participants in the meeting will include representatives from Sandia National Laboratories working on the surety assessment of the NAESB standards. At the request of the Chair of the Board of Directors, the Board Critical Infrastructure Committee was reconvened for the purpose of addressing cybersecurity and critical infrastructure activities, specifically the forthcoming surety assessment. The committee held its initial meeting on May 16, 2017.

In August, NAESB hosted a meeting between Sandia National Laboratories and NAESB standards subject matter experts. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the standards Sandia National Laboratories had identified for inclusion in the surety assessment to provide additional information and a broader understanding of how the industry utilizes the standards.

During the April 6, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors, it was announced that Sandia National Laboratories would move forward with the surety assessment sponsored by the Department of Energy. During previous surety assessments, Sandia National Laboratories has given GISB/NAESB standards a clean bill of health, with assessments focusing on the WGQ and RMQ Business Practice Standards addressing electronic communications as well as draft versions on the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Business Practice Standards.