



North American Energy Standards Board

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Home Page: www.naesb.org

Description of Quadrants and Their Segments

Wholesale Electric Quadrant

The Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) is concerned with activities necessary or desirable to achieve the objectives and purposes of the commercial aspects of the wholesale electric industry, and activities appropriate to the operation of the wholesale electric market. The WEQ is divided into seven co-equal segments. Five of the NAESB WEQ segments are also divided into subsegments based on specific market activities. There are no subsegments of the Independent Grid Operators/Planners or Technology and Services Segments.

Transmission

Any Entity engaged in the activity of owning, operating or controlling bulk electric transmission facilities in North America.

*Subsegments include Municipality/Coop, Federal/State/Provincial, IOU¹, ITC and At Large²

Generation

Any Entity engaged in the activity of owning and/or operating wholesale electric generation facilities in North America.

*Subsegments include Municipality/Coop, Federal/State/Provincial, IOU, Merchant and At Large

Marketers/Brokers

Any Entity engaged in the activity of buying and selling wholesale electric power in North America on a physical or financial basis.

*Subsegments include Municipality/Coop, Federal/State/Provincial, Non IOU Affiliated, IOU Affiliated and At Large

Distribution/Load-Serving Entities (LSE)

Any Entity engaged in the activity of electric power sales and/or delivery to end use customers in North America, or any Entity designated to represent a distribution utility.

*Subsegments include Municipality/Coop, IOU, Competitive Retailer and At Large

End Users

Any Entity in North America that is an end use consumer of electricity, engages in electricity regulation, or represents customer interests, or any Entity designated to represent an end user.

*Subsegments include End Use – Self Generator, Regulator, Residential/Commercial, Large Industrial and At Large

Independent Grid Operators (IGO)/Planners

Any Entity in North America authorized by an appropriate governmental authority to operate as a regional transmission organization, independent system operator, independent tariff administrator or independent planning entity and which does not have a business or financial interest in any other WEQ segment.

Technology and Services

Any Entity in North America engaged in providing hardware and software applications and technology related services to the North American wholesale electric market.

¹ IOU Definition: An investor-owned entity who has substantial business interest in owning and/or operating any two of the following three asset categories – generation, transmission, distribution

² At Large Definition: Regional reliability organizations, consultants, service companies, law firms, and other such organizations that are not specifically encompassed in a given segment, and excludes the ISOs, RTOs and other independent grid operators and planners, and companies providing hardware and software applications and related technology services.



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Wholesale Gas Quadrant

The Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) is concerned with and generally tasked to handle natural gas related issues and practices which are within scope and typically addressed on either an interstate basis or are generally subject to the pre-emptive jurisdiction of the federal government. The former Gas Industry Standards Board's (GISB) original work can be thought of as being work conducted within this quadrant. The WGQ is divided into five co-equal segments.

Producers

Those individuals and entities (e.g., corporations, partnerships) primarily engaged in the production of natural gas for sale to others.

Pipelines

Entities qualifying as a "natural gas company" as defined in the U.S. Natural Gas Act, an "interstate pipeline" within the definition of the U.S. Natural Gas Policy Act, or a comparable company authorized by a national, federal, state or interprovincial regulatory agency to perform comparable natural gas transportation services, under the terms of an effective tariff for such services. However, no entity shall qualify for this segment solely by virtue of authorization to perform natural gas, gathering, processing, marketing, sales for resale or local distribution services.

Local Distribution Companies (LDC)

Entities providing local distribution of natural gas to the general public.

End-users

Companies and entities that consume natural gas.

Services

Providers of services to participants in the wholesale natural gas industry, including gathering companies, gas processors, gas storage entities, marketers, software providers, consultants and other entities not otherwise considered to be a producer, pipeline, distributor or end user.



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Retail Markets Quadrant

The Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ) is concerned with and tasked to handle energy related issues and practices that are within the scope of NAESB and typically addressed at the retail energy distribution level. The RMQ shall work closely with other NAESB Quadrants to mitigate inconsistencies where proposed standards and model business practices affect those other Quadrants.

Retail Electric Service Providers/Suppliers

Persons engaged in the competitive sale of electricity and/or capacity to end users including marketers, aggregators and producers or that provide services to participants in the retail electric industry, including equipment manufacturers, equipment and service vendors, software providers, energy consultants, and other companies or individuals not otherwise eligible for membership in another Segment

Retail Electric Utilities

Persons engaged in the local distribution of electricity.

Retail Electric End Users/Public Agencies

Persons that consume electricity, represent consumers of electricity or are employed by a public agency associated with the retail electric industry

Retail Gas Market Interests

Persons participating in the retail natural gas market that can be considered a service provider, supplier, distributor, marketer, aggregator, producer, asset manager, pipeline, equipment manufacturer, equipment and service vendors, software providers, energy consultants, law firms, end users, public agencies, or consumer advocates.