

**NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY STANDARDS BOARD OPERATING PRACTICE  
ANNUAL PLAN PROCESS, CHARACTERISTICS, IMPLEMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

PLAN CHARACTERISTICS

The Annual Plan has the following characteristics and any changes to the Annual Plan will maintain these characteristics:

1. Focus and prioritization of NAESB activities: The annual plan provides a clear focus on specific activities with a prioritization defined via the completion dates. The activities defined should have high expectation of implementation. The annual plan will be focused on the standards development and maintenance, and interpretation development efforts of the organization. Development of standards pursuant to an annual plan item should be restricted to implementation of existing federal or state commission policy, new commission policy after it has been ordered and non-policy oriented aspects of the annual plan item.
2. Resource application to NAESB efforts: The annual plan recognizes that the member company resources to work on NAESB efforts are limited. The efforts defined for activity by NAESB should not exceed those limits by spreading the resources so thin that the assurance of success is affected.
3. Alignment of efforts to assure coordination of intent: It is the intent of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee that their objectives coincide. The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee will direct NAESB work through the annual plan so that those intents are aligned and the annual plan efforts are realized.
4. Timetable for efforts: The work of NAESB is defined with a specific timetable during which consensus can be reached. If consensus is not reached within that timetable, avenues other than NAESB can be pursued.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNUAL PLAN

1. Recognition of time constraints of development efforts -- the plan provides focus with no more than 5 to 10 major efforts identified, with deadlines for completion, which serve as prioritization. The development efforts, deadlines, and priorities are identified in the Annual Plan. If one of the approved efforts is completed during a year, a new effort could be added if approved by the Board of Directors in consultation with the officers of the Executive Committee.
2. Empowerment of the chairs at subcommittee and task force meetings -- chairs are empowered to limit discussions when necessary, call items out of order when applicable, follow agendas closely, and in general exert more control so that the time participants spend in meetings is more effective.
3. Efforts are "implementable" -- each effort should have a reasonable expectation that consensus can be reached, with clear deadlines established for completion. The deadlines provide an incentive to all industry participants to reach closure. For each Board meeting, these deadlines will be reviewed with the progress made to date by the subcommittees. The deadlines, as with any other parameter established in the Annual Plan, cannot be changed without Board approval. If a deadline is missed, the Board, in consultation with the officers of the Executive Committee, will determine whether the work should be continued, put on hold or transferred to another venue.
4. Modifications to existing standards and new standards that are requested which come through the request process should reflect a broad industry need. As prioritization occurs, a primary parameter should be how many companies or segments need this standard or standard change. Industry efforts to implement standards that affect only a few companies should be severely limited.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PLAN

1. Progress toward completion of the plan will be reviewed by the Board quarterly with the officers of the Executive Committee.
2. The deadlines in the Annual Plan, as with any other parameter established in the Annual Plan, cannot be changed without Board approval. When a deadline is reached before the item is completed, the Board, in consultation with the officers of the Executive Committee, will determine whether the work should continue, be postponed or transferred to another venue.
3. Any changes or additions to the annual plan items, including those requested by government agencies or commissions, must first be presented to the Board for its consideration, prioritization and approval.
4. The Board will review the Annual Plan at its quarterly meeting to determine if any changes are necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PLAN

1. The Executive Committee should strive to complete the items set forth in the Annual Plan in the times specified. When a deadline is reached before the item has completed, the Executive Committee will recommend to the Board for the Board's determination of whether the work should continue, be postponed or transferred to another venue.
2. The officers of the Executive Committee will brief the Board at each Board meeting on the progress made towards completing each item on the Annual Plan.
3. There will be boundaries on the time spent in modifying standards, which will be controlled by the Executive Committee through its setting of meeting dates for the subcommittees addressing maintenance issues.
4. A key element in determining priority for maintenance issues is the number of companies or segments needing the modifications requested. The Triage Group recommendations to the Executive Committee will include priorities/dates and possible changes to other priorities such that the workload in maintenance is reasonable considering the other items included in the plan.

NAESB OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PLAN

1. The NAESB office will prepare the progress report to the Board of Directors for each Board meeting in consultation with the officers of the Executive Committee and other subcommittee chairs as appropriate.
2. The Executive Director will be an active participant in subcommittee and task force meetings that he or she attends, acting as a liaison to the Board of Directors.