##### January 19, 2016

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: RMQ Open Field Message Bus (Open FMB) Task Force**

**Update on the OpenFMB Task Force**

The RMQ Executive Committee has announced a single-topic conference call to be held on January 28, 2016 to consider the recommendation and comments for 2015 Annual Plan Item 9.a – OpenFMB Model Business Practices. Voted out of the Open FMB Task Force on December 16, 2015, the recommendation was posted for a formal thirty day industry comment period (December 16, 2015 - January 16, 2016) during which two comments were submitted from Baltimore Gas and Electric and ISO New England. The task force held a conference call on January 19, 2016 to review the comments, discuss next steps, and develop late task force comments for the upcoming RMQ Executive Committee call.

Chaired by Joe Zhou of Ernst & Young and Stuart Laval of Duke Energy, the OpenFMB Task Force developed the recommendation in response to Standards Request R14008, submitted by Duke Energy in November of 2014. The OpenFMB framework provides a specification for power systems field devices to leverage a non-proprietary and standards-based reference architecture. The RMQ.26 OpenFMB Model Business Practices support the OpenFMB architecture to be used by utilities and vendors to create the technical requirements for implementing the ability to communicate directly with each other via a field message bus. Following the general, operational, and management business practices that make up the bulk of the recommendation, the appendices also contain important aspects of the project, including the XML Schema Definition (XSD) profiles, the sample use case scenarios, and Platform Independent Model (PIM) information.

As part of ongoing coordination with external organizations, the OpenFMB Task Force and the NAESB staff have maintained open lines of communication with the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) to ensure that the two organizations remain in lock step on the project. The SGIP has developed three Use Case Scenarios that have defined the preliminary scope of the model business practices and coordinated live demonstrations for the project. The three use cases include, the Grid Connected Load Optimization scenario, addressing the normal state of daily operations on a microgrid; the Islanded to Grid Connected Transition, addressing resynchronization and reconnection during the transition from islanded mode to grid-connected microgrid; and, the Unintentional Islanding Transition use case addressing unplanned islanding. EPRI, the SGIP, the UCAIug, and the Industrial Internet Consortium (IIC) have collaborated to support and coordinate the testing activities based on the described use cases. EPRI and SGIP recently hosted live OpenFMB demonstrations and another demo is scheduled to be showcased at the February 9-11, 2016 DistribuTECH conference. As the project continues and more test beds are developed, the task force will leverage the input received from interested utilities to expand the scope of the use cases for the project.

To foster communications on the OpenFMB standards development effort among industry participants, NAESB has included discussion on the topic as an item on the Board Leadership, Executive Committee, and Monthly Update agendas as well as in discussions with FERC and state commission staff members.