##### April 8, 2019

**TO:** NAESB Board of Directors

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

**RE: Green Button Activities Update**

On April 8, 2019, NAESB ratified the recommendation containing revisions to the NAESB REQ.21 Energy Services Provider Interface Model Business Practices (ESPI). Approved by the Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ) during its March 6, 2019 single topic conference call, the recommendation was unanimously voted out of the ESPI Task Force on February 13, 2019 and subsequently posted for an abbreviated fifteen day formal industry comment period which ended on February 28, 2019. In response to Standards Request R13001, the revisions to ESPI better reflect existing gas, electric, and water implementations and help support increased interoperability. Back in October, the RMQ Executive Committee remanded an earlier version of the ESPI recommendation back to the ESPI Task Force due to a substantial set of comments received from the Green Button Alliance and a request for more time to complete the modifications. Additionally, the Executive Committee agreed during its October meeting to shorten the upcoming formal industry comment period for the recommendation from 30 days to 15 days. In the months that ensued, the recommendation was revised and once again considered, and approved, by the ESPI Task Force in February.

Developed in response to Standards Request R13001, the recommendation was unanimously voted out of the ESPI Task Force on February 13, 2019 and subsequently posted for the 15 day formal industry comment period which ended on February 28, 2019. Four comments were submitted in response to the recommendation, including two from SSL.com, one from FLUX tailor, and one set of comments from the Green Button Alliance. Upon its ratification, ESPI was made available to the gas, electric, and water industries as a final action and it will be included in the next RMQ publication.

Serving as the critical foundation of the Green Button Initiative, ESPI details an interface that enables the retail customer authorization for the exchange of energy usage information from data custodians to third parties. In 2011, the U.S. Chief Technology Officer challenged utilities to provide customers with access to their energy usage data via a “Green Button” on their websites. Launched in 2012, the Green Button Initiative is a response to that White House call to action and has led to over 150 utilities and service providers committing to providing more than 60 million U.S. households, altogether 100 million people, with access to their own Green Button energy data. Outside the United States, in *Ontario’s Five-Year Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020*, the province has committed to expanding Green Button province-wide to let “Ontarians access and share their data on electricity, natural gas and water consumption in a secure, standardized electronic format.” Today, more than half of Ontario-based consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses now have access to their Green Button data.