##### October 3, 2017

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE: Update to the Board of Directors – Cybersecurity Activities**

This October, the WEQ Executive Committee will consider a no action recommendation developed by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee (CSS) for 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.b. The annual plan item requests that the subcommittee evaluate and modify the NAESB WEQ standards, if necessary, to support and/or complement the current version of the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards and any other activities of NERC and the FERC related to cybersecurity. After reviewing the May 11, 2017 *Presidential Executive Order on Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure[[1]](#footnote-1)*, the NERC Project 2016-03 Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Management in response to the directives from the July 21, 2016 FERC Order No. 829[[2]](#footnote-2), and the NERC Project 2016-02 CIP Modifications, the subcommittee agreed that no modifications should be made to the WEQ Business Practice Standards. The no action recommendation was posted for a thirty-day formal industry comment period that will conclude on October 11, 2017. During the late October meeting, the WEQ Executive Committee will review the recommendation along with any comments received.

During its upcoming October 12, 2017 meeting, the WEQ CSS will continue to review and discuss the proposed modifications to the NAESB Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certificate Authorities (ACA) under 2017 WEQ Annual Plan Item 4.a. As you may know, the NAESB PKI Certification Program resembles a three-legged stool approach in which the program is supported by the NAESB Business Practice Standards and Model Business Practices, a certification program developed by the NAESB Board Certification Committee which outlines the process an entity must follow to become accredited, and a specification document details the requirements an entity must meet to become certified. During a July meeting, the WEQ CSS reviewed the new version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication, *Digital Identity Guidelines,*[[3]](#footnote-3) and determined that that modifications to the specification are required. Per the NAESB process, after a recommendation is voted out of the subcommittee, a thirty day formal industry comment period will be held and the WEQ Executive Committee will review the recommendation along with any comments received.

1. Exec. Order No. 13800, 82 Fed. Reg. 22391 (May 11, 2017). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Order No. 829, *Revised Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards*, 156 FERC ¶ 61, 050, 81 Fed. Reg. 49878 (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. National Institute of Standards and Technology, *Special Publication 800-63-3*, Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol. Spec. Publ. 800-63-3, 73 pages (June 2017). The finalized four-volume SP 800-63 *Digital Identity Guidelines* document suite is now available through the following link: <https://pages.nist.gov/800-63-3/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)