##### October 15, 2021

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, NAESB Deputy Director

**RE: WEQ Coordination Activities with NERC**

During the WEQ Executive Committee meeting on October 5, the committee adopted three recommendations in support of coordination efforts between NAESB and NERC. The first recommendation, developed by the WEQ Standards Review Subcommittee (SRS), was developed in response to Standards Request R21002. This request, submitted by NERC as a result of staff-level coordination, requested NAESB consider modifications to the definition for the defined term System Operating Limit consistent with revisions for the same term proposed by NERC. Where possible, NAESB aligns the definitions of shared terms used in the business practices and reliability standards with NERC in order to improve efficiencies and reduce industry confusion. In reviewing the request, the WEQ SRS determined that the changes proposed by NERC were not substantive and developed a recommendation proposing consistent modifications to the definition in WEQ-000. There proposed changes were reviewed by the WEQ OASIS Subcommittee, the WEQ Coordinate Interchange Scheduling Subcommittee, and the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) prior to a WEQ SRS vote on the recommendation, as the term System Operating Limit is used in WEQ-001, WEQ-004, WEQ-008, and WEQ-023. If ratified, the standards will be incorporated into the next version of the WEQ publication.

The second recommendation, developed by the WEQ BPS, addressed 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.a/Standards Request R20008 – Update WEQ-006 Area Control Error (ACE) Equation Special Cases to account for modifications to NERC Dynamic Transfer Reference Document V 4. The WEQ-005 standards address how commercial elements, specifically joint operating units modeled as pseudo-ties or dynamic schedules, are accounted for in the ACE equation maintained by NERC. The revisions to the standards proposed by the recommendation are not substantive in nature but rather ensure that there is consistent terminology used between the business practices and documentation maintained by NERC regarding the ACE equation. NAESB and NERC staff engaged in coordination activities to support the standards development effort, and NAESB staff provided NERC staff with a draft version of the proposed changes prior to the WEQ BPS vote on the recommendation. If ratified, the standards will be incorporated into the next version of the WEQ publication.

The final recommendation, developed by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee, address 2021 WEQ Annual Plan Items 4.a and 4.b – Review annually at a minimum WEQ-012 and the accreditation requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities to determine if any changes are needed to meet market conditions/Evaluate and modify standards as needed to support and/or complement the current version of the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards and any other activities of NERC and the FERC related to cybersecurity. The recommendation proposed revisions to the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities to incorporate requirements applicable to NAESB Authorized Certification Authorities that issue code signing certificates issuing code signing certificates and are intended to be supportive of NERC requirements that require verification of the identity of a software source as included in the NERC CIP-010 Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessment Reliability Standards. The new version of the specification became effective upon the adoption of the recommendation by the WEQ Executive Committee.

Finally, as the WEQ SRS does every year, the subcommittee met in August to review the draft NERC 2022 – 2024 Reliability Standards Development Plan. As part of the review, the subcommittee noted four ongoing NERC Projects that are or may be coordinated with NAESB annual plan items: Project 2020-01 Modifications to MOD-032-1, Project 2020-02 Transmission-connected Dynamic Reactive Resources, Project 2020-03 Supply Chain Low Impact Revisions, and Project 2021-03 CIP-002 Transmission Owner Control Centers. The WEQ SRS feedback wase forwarded to the NAESB Managing Committee for consideration and subsequently submitted to NERC.