##### October 23, 2022

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, Director, Wholesale Electric Quadrant

**RE: Cybersecurity Update**

At the direction of the NAESB Board of Directors, the WEQ, WGQ, and RMQ are addressing minor corrections that propose to move cybersecurity-related business practices into a new suite of business practice standards for each quadrant. During the October WEQ Executive Committee meeting, the recommendation for the WEQ minor correction was approved through a simple majority vote. The comment period on the recommendation concludes on November 2, 2022. The WGQ Information Requirements (IR) Subcommittee, WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanisms (EDM) Subcommittee, and the RMQ Information Requirements and Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee (IR/TEIS) are holding ongoing joint meetings to review the standards and develop the recommendation for the RMQ and WGQ cybersecurity books. These efforts will result in a mere compilation of the existing cybersecurity standards into the new books, as no new standards development will occur as part of these minor corrections.

As background, following the 2019 Surety Assessment, an informal recommendation from Sandia National Laboratories asked that NAESB, working with FERC, consider abbreviating the timeline for implementing cybersecurity standards to expedite the process by which cybersecurity-related standards are developed, adopted, and implemented by the industry. The NAESB Strategy Committee discussed the timeline and distributed a survey to the NAESB Board of Directors and Advisory Council to solicit feedback. The survey results led to the reorganization of the NAESB standards to separate the cybersecurity-related standards and compile them into a single book for each quadrant.

NAESB staff has been in communication with FERC staff throughout the discussion process, including sharing information regarding the cybersecurity survey and subsequent results. As directed by the Chair of the NAESB Board of Directors, NAESB staff discussed the standards reorganization with FERC staff, who indicated support for NAESB moving forward with the proposal as part of the next WEQ and WGQ publications. FERC Commissioners have also been informed of this forthcoming change.

During the October WEQ Executive Committee meeting, two recommendations developed by the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee were approved. The first approved recommendation contained revisions to the WEQ-012 Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Business Practice Standards and the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certification Authorities. The revisions will support forthcoming changes in how certificate authorities issue TLS or server-side certificates. The second recommendation proposed no action in response to the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee’s annual evaluation of NERC- and FERC-related cybersecurity activities to identify any potential corresponding modifications to the WEQ Business Practice Standards. Although no action is recommended at this time, the WEQ Cybersecurity participants will continue to monitor several ongoing efforts.

Looking ahead, a joint meeting will be held later this year to identify and eliminate any legacy data that is no longer used in the WGQ and RMQ Internet Electronic Transport Business Practice Standards. The WGQ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) and RMQ Information Requirements/Technical Electronic Implementation Subcommittee (IR/TEIS) will work together to address this jointly assigned annual plan item.