**via posting**

**TO:** Interested Industry Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, Director of Wholesale Electric Activities

**RE:** Joint WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS), RMQ BPS, and WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee Meeting – Draft Minutes – January 15, 2025

**DATE:** January 16, 2025

**WHOLESALE ELECTRIC QUADRANT**

**RETAIL MARKETS QUADRANT**

**Business Practices Subcommittees and Cybersecurity Subcommittee**

**Conference Call**

**January 15, 2025 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Central**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. **Welcome**

Mr. Brooks welcomed the participants to the meeting. Ms. Trum provided the antitrust and meeting policies reminder. The participants introduced themselves. Mr. Brooks reviewed the agenda. Ms. McKeever moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, to adopt the agenda as final. The motion passed a simple majority vote without opposition.

The participants reviewed the draft minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting. Ms. McKever moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, to adopt the draft minutes as final. The motion passed a simple majority vote without opposition. The final minutes for the November 20, 2024 meeting can be viewed at the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmq_bps112024fm.docx>.

1. **Continue to Discuss** **Joint RMQ/WEQ Annual Plan Assignment – Review cybersecurity protections, such as Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), that may be necessary to secure electronic communications for distributed energy resources (DERs), and develop business practices as needed**

Mr. Brooks stated that during the previous meeting, the participants discussed and revised the Communication Exchange Use Case Considerations. He explained that work paper identifies possible categories of information that would be electronically exchanged between a DER aggregator and distribution utilitiy to carry out transactions for sales of distribution grid services that fall under state or local jurisdiction. The work paper identifies communication and security protocols that are currently being used by industry to and relevant cybersecurity considerations for electronic communication exchanges in this area.

Mr. Brooks stated Ms. Lee had submitted comments proposing modifications to the work paper. Ms. Lee reviewed her proposed modifications. She explained that the changes expand on the cybersecurity considerations that would likely be relevant for these types of communications and include additions to the communication and cybersecurity protocols that would or could be used.

Mr. Coffin noted that REQ.21 Energy Service Provider Interface is specific to the exchange of retail customer energy usage information and asked why the standard was included as part of the communication of billing and payment information. Mr. Brooks explained that the identified categories are broad references and meant to encompass various types of market-based data that could need to be exchanged to carry out the action, noting that parties would need access to energy usage information in order to perform actions related to billing and payment. He stated that the communication categories, in part, are based on the Enabling Distribution Non-Wires Solutions Use Case identified in the NARUC Grid Data Sharing Playbook.

Mr. Coffin stated that the different information categories have similar, if not identical, cybersecurity considerations and communication and security standards and protocols. He suggested creating a single use case that references all these categories as bidirectional market-based information communications. Ms. Lee agreed.

Mr. Brooks asked if there was any other discussion or comments regarding current industry practices. He noted that as discussed during the previous meeting, information is still needed regarding business requirements and processes to help identify specific cybersecurity protections and protocols that should be considered for inclusion in any developed NAESB Business Practice Standards. Mr. Yockey stated that ERCOT reviewed the Communication Exchange Use Case Considerations work paper and could provide some general feedback. He explained that to communicate with distribution utilities, ERCOT uses the NAESB EDI Business Practice Standards and requires the use of TLS Version 1.2. He noted that ERCOT has discontinued support for FTP.

Mr. Brooks reviewed the DER Participation in Wholesale Markets White Paper, submitted as part of comments to an Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking issued by the Pennsylvania PUC. He noted that the white paper makes recommendations regarding the importance of data availability and secure data access and exchanges.

The DER Aggregator-Distribution Utility Bidirectional Market Based Information Communications Use Case is available at the following link: <https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_css_rmq_bps011525a1.docx>.

1. **Identify Next Steps and Action Items**

The participants discussed the next steps in how to proceed with standards development. Mr. Brooks stated that while there seems to be general support for the development of standards in this area, participation and input from distribution utilities and DER aggregators is needed to ensure that any developed standards support industry needs. He suggested the subcommittees ask for additional comments from participants, specifically distribution utilities and DER aggregators, regarding the DER Aggregator-Distribution Utility Bidirectional Market Based Information Communications Use Case and then make a determination on how to proceed with standards development. There was no objection to proceeding in this manner.

1. **Discuss Future Meetings**

Mr. Brooks suggested holding the next meeting in mid-to-late February. He stated that the co-chairs will work with NAESB staff to schedule the meeting.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM Central on a motion by Mr. Coffin.

1. **Attendance**

| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Organization** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scott | Barfield-McGinnis | NERC |
| Rebecca | Berdahl | BPA |
| Tanner | Brier | BPA |
| Dick | Brooks | Business Cyber Guardian |
| Don | Coffin | Green Button Alliance |
| Michelle | Coon | OATI |
| Katie | Davis | BPA |
| Zeenath | Fernandes | PJM |
| Shawn | Grant | CAISO |
| Annabelle | Lee | Nevermore Security |
| Lila | Kee | GlobalSign |
| Debbie | McKeever | Oncor |
| Amrit | Nagi | NAESB |
| Kirsten | Rowley | MISO |
| Lisa | Sieg | LG&E and KU Services |
| Scott | Stewart | BPA |
| Caroline | Trum | NAESB |
| Paul | Yockey | ERCOT |