

Resolution on Access to Data Necessary to Monitor the Developing Wholesale Electricity Market

WHEREAS, Many regional electric markets throughout the country have experienced price spikes of unusual and unexpected proportions; and

WHEREAS, These price spikes have led to curtailment or shutdown of operations of some large industrial customers and are likely to lead to increased prices in the future for smaller commercial and residential customers; and

WHEREAS, The high market price volatility has raised concerns about the integrity of the markets, leading to calls from numerous participants, consumers and policy makers for investigation and heightened monitoring of these markets by regulatory bodies; and

WHEREAS, Such investigation and monitoring is necessary to either confirm the markets are functioning well or to determine whether or not there are flaws or market power abuse which otherwise raise prices above competitive levels; and

WHEREAS, In order to identify corrective policy options to assure the public of the competitiveness and efficiency of the developing wholesale electricity market and its prices, regulatory bodies need access to data such as production for generating plants, transmission path schedules and actual flows; and

WHEREAS, The electric industry restructuring efforts of the federal government and the various states is based upon an assumption of a wholesale market that operates according to

the fundamentals of a working competitive market; and

WHEREAS, To the extent data is already shared among market participants for purposes of reliability, delaying or withholding access to the data by regulators or the public cannot be justified on the grounds it is commercially sensitive, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened at its July 2000 Summer Meetings in Los Angeles, California hereby urges the voluntary reliability councils and systems operators to adopt policies that allow timely access by regulatory bodies to information necessary to enable adequate monitoring of the wholesale electricity market; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC will work with its member State Commissions and other Federal and State regulators to develop recommendations on the types of information necessary to adequately monitor wholesale electricity markets and to assure proper access to such information.

Sponsored by Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 26, 2000.