

Resolution to Support State, Federal and Local Agencies' Actions for Vegetation Management

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has worked closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to analyze and investigate transmission vegetation management practices by reviewing reports in response to the Final Blackout Report; *and*

WHEREAS, Vegetation management refers to the processes associated with the effective and systematic control of vegetation within and along side of transmission rights-of-ways (ROWs) which is critical to insuring the reliability of the bulk electricity system in the United States and Canada; *and*

WHEREAS, Vegetation management practices can have a significant impact on land quality, aesthetics and water quality surrounding transmission ROWs; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC notes that the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) has issued a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) as a first step in developing a revised standard for vegetation management; *and*

WHEREAS, FERC's review of vegetation management filings found differing application and use of vegetation management practices among the reporting transmission owners; *and*

WHEREAS, States, as a minimum, have access to the necessary information regarding distribution systems and jurisdiction over vegetation management associated with distribution systems and many States have jurisdiction over vegetation management for the entire electrical system; *and*

WHEREAS, With respect to any jurisdictional issues that may develop involving vegetation management, it is crucial that state and federal regulators coordinate so that jurisdictional considerations provide for timely efficient vegetation management and recognize the distinctions between distribution and transmission when appropriate; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its November 2004 Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, recommends that State commissions engage Federal regulators in timely dialogue regarding any jurisdictional issues that may arise involving vegetation management; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That procedures and emergency exemptions are needed to allow for timely transmission line protection; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That a closely coordinated permitting process will adequately provide for a clear and explicit standards framework for necessary actions by each responsible party as appropriate; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges the State commissions to take appropriate and effective actions, along with FERC, NERC, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Conference of

State Legislatures, the National Governors Association, the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Forest Service , the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other key Federal and local agencies, that will provide assistance and guidance to better understand and address issues related to critical infrastructure and transmission vegetation management.

Co-sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee on Critical Infrastructure and the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by NARUC November 17, 2004