

Resolution on NARUC Sponsorship of a National Conference on Environmental Strategies in the Restructured Electric Industry

WHEREAS, The electric industry in the United States is preparing for, and undergoing, significant structural and regulatory changes; and many public utility regulatory commissions are investigating the merits of a shift from regulation to competition and are considering various means of effecting such a shift in the public interest; *and*

WHEREAS, The electric industry greatly affects the environment, while environmental regulations and the continuing public interest in environmental quality greatly affect the electric industry; *and*

WHEREAS, The introduction of competitive forces to the electric industry will require new strategies for maintaining and improving environmental quality, and will provide an opportunity to achieve an industry structure where both market incentives and regulatory mechanisms can encourage cleaner resources at least-cost; *and*

WHEREAS, Coordination of efforts by electricity providers, environmental regulators and utility regulators is necessary to promote maximum innovation, and the use of market forces and new regulatory approaches to protect environmental quality at the lowest cost; *and*

WHEREAS, The NARUC participates actively, with the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Energy, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in the National Council on Competition and the Electric Industry; *and*

WHEREAS, On February 28, 1996, the Executive Committee of the NARUC adopted a Resolution on Coordination Between Utility and Environmental Regulators Concerning Electric Industry Restructuring; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened at its 1996 Summer Committee Meetings in Los Angeles, California, hereby states that it will sponsor a National Conference on Restructuring and the Environment to be held in 1997; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC invites joint sponsorship of that conference by the National Council on Competition and the Electric Industry and state and federal environmental agencies to assure the development of coordinated and effective environmental strategies compatible with emerging competition in the electric industry.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Conservation
Adopted July 25, 1996*