

***Resolution Recognizing EPRI's Water Quality Trading Project***

**WHEREAS**, Water Quality Trading is an innovative market-based approach to improving water quality through programs that allow point source discharges to purchase pollutant reductions from other point and nonpoint source dischargers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, A properly designed and deployed program has the potential to protect watersheds at lower overall costs; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has initiated an Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading project that encourages collaboration across State boundaries; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The trading plan was signed on August 9, 2012, by State representatives from permitting offices and agricultural agencies in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The project holds the promise of providing ecological and social co-benefits, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions, pollinator habitat, and financial support for local agricultural offices and farmers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The project encourages and facilitates broad stakeholder engagement to address a complex environmental challenge; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Several existing projects have demonstrated that water quality trading can be used to facilitate and expedite pollutant reductions for compliance purposes, as well as for overall water quality improvement; *now, therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2013 Summer Committee Meetings in Denver, Colorado, commends EPRI for working to develop best practices in water quality trading, and encourages State governments to consider similar programs in other States, given the importance of water quality to the nation.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Water and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment*

*Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 24, 2013*