

Resolution Adopting the DOE/NARUC Utility Market Access Partnership Board Market Access Standards for Utilization by State Utility Commissions

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy (DOE) Natural Gas Market Access Program for Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) was expanded to include the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and unanimously approved by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 28, 2001; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE/NARUC Energy Market Access Partnership (EMAP) Board, comprised of State utility commissioners, utility industry leaders, WMBE members, the DOE officials and other individuals, has been established and meets to encourage a greater utilization and inclusion of women and minority businesses in all utility industries by developing a set of policies and principles that can be used in guiding the efforts and intent of the original resolution adopted in November 1999; *and*

WHEREAS, A women and/or minority-owned business is defined as an enterprise that is at least 51% owned by a woman or women or by a minority individual or group, with management and daily business operations controlled by one or more of those individuals; *and*

WHEREAS, The EMAP Board, in conjunction with NARUC and The National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) developed a document entitled “DOE/NARUC Energy Market Access Partnership Board Strategy” that identified issues, constraints and barriers that WMBE companies face in the marketplace; *and*

WHEREAS, The EMAP board has expanded its focus to reach beyond gas markets to include electricity, water and telecommunication sectors and the procurement of all goods and services provided to utility companies, and have changed the name to Utility Market Access Partnership (UMAP) to reflect this change; *and*

WHEREAS, Many Federal, State, local governmental agencies and private businesses have promulgated laws, rules, policies and programs designed to improve and increase the procurement opportunities for women and minorities and are reporting success in these opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, A reliable, competitive, and efficient utility industry that fully utilizes all market segments, including Diverse Business Enterprises, can be established through increasing knowledge of the significance of regulatory and entrepreneurial factors; *and*

WHEREAS, The UMAP in conjunction with utility representatives from electricity, water, gas, and telecommunication developed a document entitled “Utility Market Access Partnership (UMAP) Strategy” which includes model standards that encourage commissions and utilities to maximize opportunities for DBE supplier participation, promote voluntary utility market participation in DBE supplier development programs; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its March 2004 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., recommends the Model Market Access Standards as a voluntary guide to State commissions and utilities to improve and increase the procurement opportunities of women and minority businesses.

Sponsored by the DOE/NARUC Utility Market Access Partnership Board, the Committee on Consumer Affairs, the Committee on Electricity, the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, the Committee on Gas, the Committee on Telecommunications and the Committee on Water

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors March 10, 2004