

Resolution on Utility Sector Interdependencies

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) recognizes that public utilities—telecommunications, electricity, natural gas and water and wastewater—in all States and regions provide essential services to consumers; *and*

WHEREAS, Individual utility services do not function without support from other industry sectors and are therefore interdependent; *and*

WHEREAS, Due to this interdependency, a disruption or outage in one utility sector can have a profound impact on other critical services, including information systems, healthcare, national defense, finance, shipping, and manufacturing; *and*

WHEREAS, The interdependency and vulnerability of public utility sectors and the National economic well-being has been brought to the forefront by catastrophic events such as the 2001 terrorist attack and the Northeast-Midwest power blackout of 2003; *and*

WHEREAS, A vast majority of the Nation's utilities and services are owned and operated by the private sector, and these businesses continue to develop, implement and update response and recovery plans for all critical service elements, including business continuity and contingency plans; *and*

WHEREAS, Robust response and recovery plans must be applied to our Nation's critical infrastructures so that each sector has a recovery plan that clearly defines sector responsibilities, articulates interdependencies and provides for communications with other critical sectors, as appropriate; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its 2004 Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, strongly recommends that the States participate in private/public and cross-sector collaborative efforts that promote the Nation's economic stability, national security and infrastructure integrity.

Sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee on Critical Infrastructure, Committee on Water, Committee on Telecommunications, Committee on Gas

Adopted by NARUC November 17, 2004