

Resolution Urging the Establishment of Fair and Open Electric Data Interchange for Competitive Utility Markets

WHEREAS, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), the electronic exchange of information between business units, facilitating the implementation of uniform business practices which are key to the establishment of effectively competitive utility markets; and

WHEREAS, EDI is a critical component of a workable operational support system (OSS) in the developing competitive gas, electric, and telecommunications industries; and

WHEREAS, Competitive entrants to utility markets may face insurmountable obstacles unless EDI systems provide them fair and accurate information about consumers, with adequate privacy safeguards, and access to those consumers; and

WHEREAS, Utility consumers can be protected from unnecessary intrusion and can benefit from enhanced levels of choice if adequate EDI systems are in place; and

WHEREAS, EDI systems are evolving rapidly and have the potential to significantly increase business productivity; and

WHEREAS, FERC has not assumed an active role with regard to EDI in retail markets and its involvement in wholesale market EDI has been limited to relegating EDI policy to ISOs; and

WHEREAS, State public utility commissions can play an important role in the creation and maintenance of effective EDI systems; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its March 2000 Winter Meeting in Washington D. C., urges State public utility commissions engaged in the restructuring of utility markets to adopt policies that encourage the development and maintenance of fair and open EDI; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges State public utility commissions to adopt the model used by several States and employ collaborative processes to develop EDI policies and standards; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges State public utility commissions to protect utility consumers by requiring adequate validation of consumer transactions, particularly with regard to pre-enrollment verification; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges State public utility commissions to monitor EDI systems on an ongoing basis to ensure that EDI systems deemed fair and open remain so and to ensure that EDI systems continue to evolve so as to allow utility markets and consumers to benefit from the most efficient technology.

Sponsored by the Committee on Finance and Technology
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, March 8, 2000.