



# NARUC

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

## TASK FORCE ON NATURAL GAS RESOURCE PLANNING

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is providing a forum for members to envision novel process approaches for considering natural gas distribution resource planning in their states.

### HOW COULD NEW APPROACHES BENEFIT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONS AND ENERGY CUSTOMERS?

The energy system is changing. Natural gas consumption is at an all-time high in the U.S., to meet robust demand for power generation, heating, industrial processes, and transportation. As policymakers and customers in many states push for mid-century energy system decarbonization and others rely on natural gas for economic development, state utility regulators must meet state policy goals while ensuring the safety, affordability, and reliability of utility-owned energy infrastructure at all times. New fuels and technologies such as hydrogen, renewable natural gas, and electrified appliances are being developed and tested in numerous jurisdictions, with differing opinions among policymakers, utilities, and stakeholders about the extent to which these approaches can or should be broadly deployed.

Insights and experience from state peers and national experts can assist utility regulators in making well-informed decisions in the public interest. NARUC members are in urgent need of impartial, accurate information on the costs, benefits, and trajectories of various pathways to meet state policy goals and strategies to facilitate meaningful stakeholder engagement, all while minimizing cost burdens on customers.

To meet this need, NARUC is convening a Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning to connect utility regulators with tools, expertise, and platforms to share information and develop their own refined visions for commission-led planning processes that will help them navigate the challenging energy landscape of the coming decades.

### WHY ARE CHANGES TO NATURAL GAS RESOURCE PLANNING NEEDED?

The rapid pace of technological and policy changes in the natural gas sector presents complicated questions for state utility commissions. Presented with proposals for routine safety-related infrastructure upgrades, expansions to serve new customers, investments to maintain supply, evolving energy efficiency programs, and more complex, longer-term system changes, utility regulators must make decisions today that will have practical effects on customer bills, infrastructure investments, and the likelihood of achieving state policy goals far into the future. Commissions need to ensure that they have adequate information for decision making in this environment. Increasingly, commissions are exploring the applicability of integrated resource planning-style processes for state-specific natural gas planning.

### WHAT IS THE TASK FORCE'S OBJECTIVE?

The Task Force will not develop or promote a solution to these complex challenges; it will facilitate the development of roadmaps focused on state planning approaches—questions, information needs, process steps, stakeholder engagement strategies—that commissions anticipate will lead to better informed decision making in their states.



# TASK FORCE OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

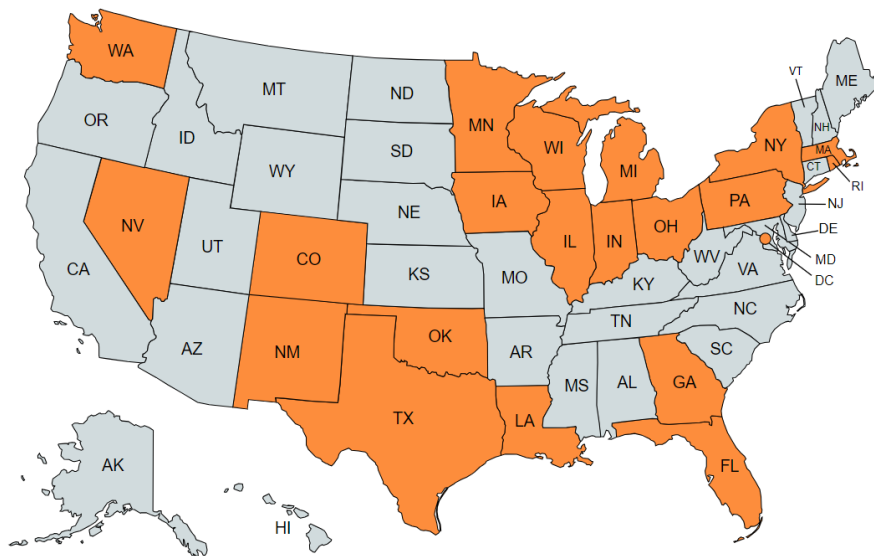
## IN BRIEF

- The Task Force will convene four in-person and virtual workshops over two years, starting in November 2023.
- Participants will be guided through an educational, creative, and collaborative process to develop and share strategies for information gathering and decision making.
- Participants will receive input from federal experts, National Lab researchers, and invited stakeholders to fill data gaps.
- Participants will contribute to roadmaps that envision idealized planning processes, which can be adapted to specific states.
- Stakeholders and regulated utilities will be offered opportunities for input.

## EXPECTED TIMELINE

- **July 2023:** NARUC President Michael Caron announces the Task Force.
- **November 2023:** Task Force members convene for an in-person workshop at the NARUC Annual Meeting.
- **January – July 2024:** Task Force members participate in virtual, monthly expert learning and discussion meetings.
- **Fall 2024 & Early 2025:** Task Force members convene for two in-person workshops, focused on developing roadmaps.
- **Spring 2025:** Task Force members finalize materials in a virtual workshop.
- **July 2025:** Task Force members release roadmaps and resources at the NARUC Summer Policy Summit.

## 21 PARTICIPATING STATES



### Task Force Leadership

- Chair: Hon. Fitz Johnson, Georgia Public Service Commission
- Co-Vice Chair: Hon. Tammy Cordova, Nevada Public Utilities Commission
- Co-Vice Chair: Hon. Kathryn Zerkus, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

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NARUC thanks the DOE Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, DOE Office of Policy, and DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for supporting this effort with dedicated funding and access to experts.