

**Remarks by Asim Haque
Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

Terry Barnich Award Ceremony

February 9, 2014

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman, my name is Asim Haque and I am a Commissioner with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. It is my honor to introduce this year's recipient of the Terry Barnich Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation.

I've had the pleasure of working with Kim Wissman since I arrived at the Commission last year. Kim serves as the executive director of the Ohio Power Siting Board and the director of our Department of Energy and Environment, where she leads a team of 43 employees. Kim is widely respected at the Commission and within the utility industry for her substantive knowledge-base and technical expertise, as well as her straightforward approach in tackling our most challenging utility issues.

When I first visited with Kim in her office upon my arrival at the Commission, she had this great array of little mementos from all of her world travels. She absolutely lit up when talking about those travels, and you could tell that this side of Kim was near and dear to her.

Kim has participated in NARUC international exchanges, regulatory partnerships, regional programs, technical workshops and trainings since the 1990s. Although incomplete, a brief list includes: the Energy Regulators Regional Association, International Confederation of Energy Regulators, World Forum on Energy Regulation, Ghana, Ukraine, Albania, Estonia, Armenia, Georgia, Mali, Saudi Arabia, Moldova and Bosnia.

One of Kim's foremost international accomplishments is her long-lasting involvement with the Energy Regulators Regional Association, or ERRA. Through ERRA Kim has participated in multiple exchanges and serves as one of the Association's primary resource persons on energy regulation in the United States. Additionally, Kim served as senior staff during seven formal Ghana/Ohio Regulatory Partnership activities from 2005 – 2008. This partnership resulted in the creation of the Ghanaian Inter-departmental Siting Committee (modeled on Ohio's siting board) to oversee the siting of electric and gas infrastructure, the implementation of new rules and regulations, and the development of licensing manuals for gas utilities. While there are no current formal program exchanges, this partnership remains alive today as Ghanaian staffers continue to visit the Ohio Commission.

Above all, Kim values and embodies the spirit of international cooperation that develops through these partnerships. I was fortunate to witness this spirit first-hand through Ohio's regulatory partnership with Bosnia. These partnerships are not just an exercise for Kim. She understands the gravity of these partnerships and how important it is to our partnering country, she is able to so intelligently distill and convey difficult information to our foreign regulators, and she does all of this with tremendous grace and a demeanor that would befit a U.S. Ambassador.

We are grateful to have Kim at the Ohio Commission, and the developing utility world, if they could speak in unison, is very grateful as well.