

***Resolution Supporting Full Examination of Blackout Causes  
and Full Disclosure to the States of the Results***

WHEREAS, On August 14, 2003, a cascading blackout resulted in electric service interruptions to an estimated 50 million people representing 61,800 megawatts in the Northeastern portion of the United States and Ontario, Canada; *and*

WHEREAS, On August 15, 2003 President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Jean Chretien directed that a joint U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force (International Task Force) be established to investigate the causes of the blackout and how to reduce the possibility of future outages; *and*

WHEREAS, The International Task Force issued an Interim Report in November 2003 on the initiating events of the blackout and is currently performing further analysis of the event and possible mitigation measures; *and*

WHEREAS, A cascading blackout or lengthy disruption of electric service are extreme events that endanger the health and welfare of those impacted and requires the mobilization of State police, fire and emergency service resources; *and*

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that the August 14, 2003 blackout resulted in an economic cost estimated to be between four and ten billion dollars, disrupting business, mass transportation, and people's lives in general; *and*

WHEREAS, The State and provincial economies bear the burden of the economic impacts of the blackout; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress, FERC and DOE can take limited actions to prevent future blackouts, it is incumbent upon the States to work with the Federal government and the industry to formulate and implement structural changes to the bulk electric system to mitigate the possibility of another event; *and*

WHEREAS, The States are dependent on the efforts of the International Task Force for the information on exactly how the events cascaded across State lines before the States can formulate effective mitigation strategies; *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., urges that the U.S. – Canada Task Force continue and complete its data collection and analysis efforts relating to the cascading of the blackout into the affected States and Canada and share all the necessary information and conclusions with the affected Regional Reliability Councils, the affected States and Canada; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the U.S. – Canada Task Force continue its efforts to simulate the events during and throughout the cascading outages leading to the blackouts in the affected States and Canada; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the U.S. – Canada Task Force coordinate with NERC and the other appropriate entities to ensure that the necessary engineering studies are performed to determine whether the operation or failure to operate of existing system protection, stabilization, voltage control, load shedding, or other equipment, or the replacement or addition of such equipment, could have mitigated the cascading of the August 14 blackout and, whether such improvements could be of value in protecting against future blackouts.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity*

*Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, March 10, 2004*