

Resolution Promoting Partnerships to Train a Future Electric Industry Workforce

WHEREAS, The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that electricity demand will grow by 30% by 2030. Several recent reports, including reports from the Brattle Group and the Electric Power Research Institute, demonstrate the need for increased supply-side and demand-side infrastructure to meet the increasing demand for electricity; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress is debating several bills that would increase funding for research and development into low-carbon technologies; *and*

WHEREAS, The electric industry is entering a period of capital investment in new technologies and new infrastructure to meet growing demand, security needs, reliability standards and environmental goals; *and*

WHEREAS, The existence of an adequate supply of electricity for consumption by end-use customers at reasonable rates is dependent upon the availability of an adequate number of properly-trained engineers and other skilled employees; *and*

WHEREAS, The need for a sufficient workforce in the electric industry is particularly crucial as the electric industry enters a critical and evolving time period; *and*

WHEREAS, According to an August 2006 report to Congress, the U.S. Department of Energy concluded that “the percentage of the line worker workforce expected to retire within the next five to 10 years could approach 50% in some organizations;” *and*

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Labor recently reported that the United States will need to train more than 270,000 new electrical and power line workers by 2016; *and*

WHEREAS, Figures vary among companies, but industry officials estimate that about half of the approximately 400,000 employees in the electric industry workforce will be eligible for retirement over the next five to ten years; *and*

WHEREAS, According to the American Society for Engineering Education, the number of engineers graduating from U.S. colleges is decreasing; *and*

WHEREAS, Utilities have created training programs and are collaborating with institutions of higher education to find ways to promote interest in careers in the electric industry; *and*

WHEREAS, Through the Center for Workforce Development, utilities are identifying best practices and searching for solutions to future workforce needs; *and*

WHEREAS, The generation sector, specifically including the nuclear industry, has launched efforts to educate and train a new generation of skilled engineers; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC believes that coordination and collaboration between the industry and regulators is essential to meeting workforce adequacy challenges; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC further believes that its educational affiliates can be an asset to regulators and the industry in coordinating efforts to train a workforce to meet the future needs of the electricity industry; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2008 Summer Meetings in Portland, Oregon, directs its Subcommittee on Education and Research to work with NARUC's educational affiliates to examine the evolving workforce needs in the electric industry and submit a written report to the Board at its Annual Convention on the current programs and recommendations for future partnerships to assist in the development of training, recruitment and retention programs.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity
Adopted by the Board of Directors July 23, 2008