

Resolution Encouraging the DOE/NARUC Energy Market Access Partnership Board to Develop Market Access Standards for Utilization by State Utility Commissions

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy (DOE) Natural Gas Market Access Program for Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) was expanded to include NARUC and unanimously approved by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 28, 2001; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE/NARUC Energy Market Access Partnership (EMAP) Board, comprised of State utility commissioners, utility industry leaders, WMBE members, DOE officials and other individuals, has been established and meets to encourage a greater utilization and inclusion of women and minority businesses in all utility industries by developing a set of policies and principles that can be used in guiding the efforts and intent of the original resolution adopted in November 1999; *and*

WHEREAS, A women and/or minority-owned business is defined as an enterprise that is at least 51% owned by a woman or women or by a minority individual or group, with management and daily business operations controlled by one or more of those individuals; *and*

WHEREAS, The EMAP Board, in conjunction with NARUC and The National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) developed a document entitled “DOE/NARUC Energy Market Access Partnership Board Strategy” (Strategy) that identified issues, constraints and barriers that WMBE companies face in the marketplace; *and*

WHEREAS, The EMAP board has expanded its focus to reach beyond gas markets to include electricity, water and telecommunication sectors and the procurement of all goods and services provided to utility companies; *and*

WHEREAS, Many federal, State, local governmental agencies and private businesses have promulgated laws, rules, policies and programs designed to improve and increase the procurement opportunities for women and minorities and are reporting success in these opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, Increasing the number of participants and competitors in the market place promotes economic efficiency and results in lower costs to ratepayers and consumers; *and*

WHEREAS, The EMAP Board recognizes that a need exists to encourage greater participation from the utility industry, WMBE companies, and State utility commissions; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its November 2003 Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, hereby recommends that the DOE/NARUC EMAP Board develop for NARUC consideration, model market access standards that can be used as a guide by State utility commissions to encourage greater market participation of WMBE companies and regulated utility companies to participate in a WMBE market access program which includes gas, electricity, water and telecommunication markets and the procurement of all goods and services provided to utility companies.

Sponsored by the DOE/NARUC Energy Market Access Partnership Board, the Committee on Consumer Affairs, the Committee on Electricity, the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, the Committee on Gas, the Committee on Telecommunications and the Committee on Water.

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors, November 18, 2003

Adopted NARUC Convention, November 18, 2003