

Resolution Concerning Photovoltaic Commercialization

WHEREAS, Electric utilities in the United States are facing new competitive pressures necessitating innovation in customer service and creative use of emerging technological solutions for providing energy services; *and*

WHEREAS, The United States has joined 110 nations in the world in committing to the control of emissions of greenhouse gases under the Framework Convention on Global Climate Change; *and*

WHEREAS, Over 70 utility CEOs have committed to voluntary actions under the Climate Change Action Plan to reduce their emission of climate altering pollutants; *and*

WHEREAS, Commercialization of photovoltaic (PV) and other renewable energy service industries will help meet the goal of reducing United States emissions of CO₂ and other climate altering pollutants and is included as part of the national Climate Change Action Plan; *and*

WHEREAS, PV commercialization by means of collaborative market development of the electric utility and energy services market for PV has reached a critical mass of interested utilities and stakeholders, has been endorsed by the Department of Energy and has been included as an Action Item in the federal budget and the Climate Change Action Plan, and is fully organized and funded, to wit:

- * The Utility PhotoVoltaic Group (UPVG) has 85 utility members, with additional utility members joining the commercialization effort, has issued an Early Opportunity Notice for PV hardware projects, has the results of commercialization studies showing over 9000 MW of potential PV applications, and has issued a request for proposals, and proposals for the first round of cost-shared deployments are due in December 1994; *and*
- * PV for utilities (PV4U) State Working Groups are active in at least 12 states, with additional state collaboratives forming in an additional 12 states; *and*
- * The National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates Photovoltaic Education Project (NASUCA PVEP) has been organized to support consumer advocates; *and*
- * The Renewable Energy Technology Analysis (RETA) project has been organized to provide support to environmental and public interest groups across the country and in many states; *and*

WHEREAS, PV meets the needs of utilities and their customers in a more competitive utility industry by positioning utilities to take advantage of the tremendous potential for cost reductions in PV, the broad public acceptance for renewable energy, the potential for economic development and job creation, and the unique characteristics PV presents for

meeting customer demands for clean power, independent energy sources, energy efficiency, and on-site use of renewable energy resources, including flexibility, modularity, reliability, and low risk; *and*

WHEREAS, Utility partnership in PV commercialization meetings the needs of society for public investment in movement toward a sustainable energy infrastructure, hedges the potential and commodity electricity markets will lead to unreliable service, and represents shared responsibility for an alternative to the risks of global climate disaster; *and*

WHEREAS, In response to the national and local efforts and the opportunity to take advantage of PV costs falling and technology improving, many State utility commissions have joined in collaboratives working on both national and local PV commercialization, have inquired of utilities whether they are aware of and active in collaborative PV commercialization and are applying currently cost effective PV, and reformed their line extension policies, have set up renewables dockets and investigations, have considered PV as part of set-asides and as supply resources in IRP and have begun to examine the benefits of PV in diversifying their state's energy resource portfolio; *and*

WHEREAS, Given the progress noted, new PV commercialization opportunities and now before state commissions and electric utilities to expand collaboration in support of PV commercialization, to apply new analytic techniques resulting from DOE and PV industry sponsored research into PV-DSM and PV grid support applications, to consider competition and industry-structure ramifications of customer on-site combustion, to consider the relative financial obligations of utility shareholders and customers for national PV rooftop programs, and to help ready their states for competition for federal PV hardware matching funds through the UPVG program; *now therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, By the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) at its 106th Annual Convention in Reno, Nevada, that state commissions and commissioners should continue to devote their attention to addressing regulatory barriers to PV commercialization and to reform regulatory processes to support commercialization of emerging domestic renewable energy options, to review utility use of PV in competitive planning, and to prepare their states for competition for federal matching funds for PV hardware; *and*

RESOLVED, That state commissions and commissioners should encourage utilities to work in partnership with local and national collaborative efforts to commercialize PV, to vigorously pursue currently cost-effective PV applications, to support line extension and other regulatory policy reforms to continue or initiate resource assessment activities, and to include PV and other renewable energy options in competitive business planning and resource portfolio management.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Conservation
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