

Resolution Supporting Pipeline Safety Center

WHEREAS, Natural gas demand in the U.S. is projected to increase by approximately 50% during the next 20 years, including significant growth in its use for electric power generation; and

WHEREAS, The expected demand for natural gas will necessitate construction of significant amounts of new pipeline transmission and distribution capacity; and

WHEREAS, These developments are occurring at a time when the nation is under security alerts and attempting to enhance the security, safety and reliability of the nation's energy supply and delivery infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, NARUC's recently adopted energy policy (November 14, 2001) emphasizes that Congress should encourage domestic exploration and production of new natural gas supplies and the expansion of natural gas transmission and delivery infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, Access to accurate, objective and comprehensive pipeline safety information will help develop well-founded public and governmental understanding of pipelines; and

WHEREAS, Such information about pipeline safety, including analyses developed from non-proprietary data collected by the Office of Pipeline Safety and from other sources, when made available to all stakeholders, including increased information exchange with communities and local and state agencies, would assist in the resolution of pipeline safety issues; and

WHEREAS, Provision of such pipeline safety information in lay terms through a centralized, publicly available web-based service, consistent with security concerns, as well as through print and other media and forums, will maximize the availability and dissemination of such information to all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Such a centralized information resource base, in addition to providing increased understanding about pipelines and pipeline safety and resolution of issues, will enhance incident prevention and stakeholder coordination to better respond in the event of an incident; and

WHEREAS, The Gas Technology Institute (GTI) is providing initial funding for the development of a Pipeline Safety Center, an independent organization directed by a broad based and balanced Board of Directors comprised of representatives from all pipeline safety stakeholders, to promote and foster the continuous improvement of pipeline safety by providing, through a centralized web-based resource, print and other media and forums, objective educational information and analyses on pipeline safety to benefit all stakeholders, including services to assist in the development of appropriate research and development programs for the furtherance of pipeline safety, and development and coordination of select training activities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened at its July 2002 Summer Meetings in Portland, Oregon, supports the concept of a Pipeline Safety Center to assist in the distribution of public information on pipeline

operations and safety; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports GTI's initiative to establish a Pipeline Safety Center.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 31, 2002