

Resolution in Support of Water-Smart Energy Choices

WHEREAS, Long-term, reliable supplies of electricity and water are fundamentally necessary for public health, economic activity and the environment; *and*

WHEREAS, Our nation's electricity generation infrastructure is vulnerable to a variety of water-related risks as demonstrated by recent droughts, heat waves and other weather-induced impacts that have reduced water supplies, raised cooling water temperatures, and reduced production of thermal and hydroelectric power plants; *and*

WHEREAS, Such energy-water conflicts are projected by water and climate experts to increase with further warming of the global climate and increased weather variability; *and*

WHEREAS, Power plant cooling water needs can affect power plants, water resources, and other water users, through water withdrawals, water consumption (evaporation), water temperature effects, and other water quality impacts; *and*

WHEREAS, Water-related constraints to generation plants can reduce electricity supplies, threaten reliability and increase costs; *and*

WHEREAS, Initiatives to manage and mitigate energy-water issues have been and continue to be advanced by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, as well as numerous State commissions and other State agencies; *and*

WHEREAS, DOE found that low-flow conditions in rivers and low lake levels pose operational risks to thermoelectric and hydroelectric facilities that will increase in future years;¹ *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 125th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, urges States and federal authorities to:

- Recognize the important role of water supply and related risks in making sound power supply investment decisions and allocating water-related risks and benefits; *and*
- Seek input from water resource agencies, water commissions, and other relevant stakeholders on the long-term effects of power supply decisions (including new construction, retrofits, and retirements) on the broader water supply and demand; *and*
- Take appropriate additional steps to reduce near- and long-term electricity-water risks, including reducing the water intensity of power generation; *and*
- Institutionalize continued attention to potential water threats to reliability of energy systems (as they have the ability); *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC commends the investment and support of the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability and supports the efforts of its member commissions

¹ *U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather*, July 2013, p. 24-25

in becoming more knowledgeable about energy-water risks and mitigation opportunities in their State, their region, and across the country, in order to further enhance their public health, safety, and economic well-being, and to be better able to effectively meet on-going challenges to maintain reliable and cost-effective electricity supply and healthy water resources.

Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources & the Environment and the Committee on Water

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 19, 2013

Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 20, 2013