

Resolution Recognizing Hydropower as Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, Renewable energy represents an important source of electricity and is a key element in ensuring long-term United States energy security; *and*

WHEREAS, The International Energy Agency defines renewable energy as energy that is derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly; *and*

WHEREAS, The International Energy Agency defines hydropower as the potential and kinetic energy of water converted into electricity in all hydroelectric plants; *and*

WHEREAS, Hydropower is a renewable source of energy, using the power of flowing water, without wasting or depleting it in the production of energy; *and*

WHEREAS, Although there may be competing demands for water resources, including agricultural, domestic and industrial uses, as well as minimum flow requirements for ecological considerations, hydropower fosters North American energy independence, as water from rivers is a naturally renewable resource that is not subject to fluctuations in price; *and*

WHEREAS, Some hydroelectric power plants may support the development of other renewable resources when they have appropriate reservoirs of water that provide operational flexibility allowing them to respond to fluctuating demand for electricity and to the intermittent generation profiles of, for example, wind and solar; *and*

WHEREAS, Pumped storage hydroelectric power plants would not normally be considered a form of renewable energy unless the source of the pumping energy is from a renewable source and there is no double counting of the renewable pumping resource and the generation from the pumped storage facility; *and*

WHEREAS, Hydropower is generally a low-carbon or carbon-free resource; *and*

WHEREAS, Hydropower is a relatively mature and cost-effective resource, with limited need for market transformation support that nonetheless may contribute to the diversity of renewable resources and may face certain development and retention challenges, such as high capital cost, remoteness from load and the need for fish passages and other environmental mitigation; *and*

WHEREAS, Numerous NARUC resolutions have supported deployment of clean and renewable energy technologies; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2010 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, recognizes that hydropower facilities can be valuable clean and renewable energy resources if they are constructed and operated consistent with applicable provincial, State and federal law or policies and have received all required regulatory approvals; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges policymakers to give due consideration to the potential value of hydropower resources and the relative maturity and cost of the technology in establishing portfolio or incentive policies that promote clean or renewable energy sources; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That in implementing this Resolution individual States should retain the right to impose their own standards and criteria as to whether and to what extent hydropower resources will be deemed to qualify for special incentives or renewable or clean energy portfolio requirements, including standards to determine when hydropower is designed and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That such State policies respecting hydropower should not be federally preempted.

Sponsored by the Committees on Electricity, Energy Resources and the Environment and International Relations

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 16, 2010

Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 17, 2010