

Resolution Supporting the Development of Small Modular Reactor Technology

WHEREAS, The future of electric power generation is likely to require lower carbon emissions than can be achieved by present generation technologies; *and*

WHEREAS, New nuclear power is available to produce a zero carbon-emitting electricity production option to meet a utility's baseload capacity needs; *and*

WHEREAS, The existing fleet of 104 nuclear reactors within the United States are nearing the end of their current operating license periods and eventually will need to be replaced with baseload generation; *and*

WHEREAS, Currently approved and operating nuclear power plant designs are typically rated for capacity levels exceeding 1,000 MW and require large capital investments in the billions of dollars; *and*

WHEREAS, There are accordingly significant siting security, waste disposal, and financing challenges that limit the number of electricity utilities able to pursue large-scale nuclear power plant options; *and*

WHEREAS, There are various new design proposals for Small Modular Reactor (SMR) nuclear power plants that would require smaller footprints (less than 200 acres instead of 2,000), require a lower capital investment, and provide flexibility for incremental or replacement capacity additions; *and*

WHEREAS, There are currently several entities pursuing the creation and licensing of new SMR nuclear power plant generation capability similar in technology to larger operating reactors that have expressed interest in seeking licenses from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); *and*

WHEREAS, Any new SMR design will require "first-of-a-kind" review and consideration by the NRC; *and*

WHEREAS, The ability of electric utilities throughout the United States to reduce their existing and incremental carbon emissions will be enhanced by their ability to construct and operate SMR nuclear power plants to serve the baseload needs of their customers; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2010 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, urges federal support to further the development, including the development of licensable design of economically viable Small Modular Reactor nuclear power plant technology for the use of electric utilities in the United States; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC directs its General Counsel to support the positions expressed in this resolution through any existing or proposed legislation, agency decisions, or other relevant activities or proceedings.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 16, 2010

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