

Resolution on Enhanced Public Support for T&D Research

WHEREAS, The reliability of the interconnected power grid is critical to the nation's economy, security and the sustenance of modern life; *and*

WHEREAS, The possibility of declining power grid reliability has become a matter of urgent public concern in recent years; *and*

WHEREAS, The siting of new power infrastructure has become a matter of both increasing concern and increasing difficulty in some parts of the nation; *and*

WHEREAS, Private industry efforts to sustain support for research, development and deployment of innovative grid technologies have been hampered by the uncertainty regarding investment recovery in recent years; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a widely-recognized government role in providing public funding for research and development of various grid-related technologies that can potentially increase system capacity, flexibility and efficiency; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal funding for grid-related R&D has come under increasing pressure in the current budget environment; *and*

WHEREAS, Research into new technologies and control systems that can potentially enhance the capacity, flexibility and efficiency of the interconnected power grid is essential to meet the nation's growing and changing energy needs; *and*

WHEREAS, On February 18, 2004 the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, in partnership with other stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of the electricity industry ("the IEEE Coalition"), issued an Open Letter to Congress and the Administration on the Budgetary Threat to Transmission & Distribution Research," which calls upon Congress and the Administration to restore and increase support for grid-related T&D; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its March 2004 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., joins the IEEE Coalition in urging that T&D research be established as a clear national priority for 2005 and beyond including the promotion of public – private partnerships to stimulate collaborative research, design and development; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, that NARUC supports the IEEE Coalition in urging that future funding for T&D research should be established at levels commensurate with the importance of the interconnected power grid to the nation's economy, security and the sustenance of modern life.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors March 10, 2004