

**Remarks by Kim Wissman
Director, Energy and Environment Department
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

***Recipient for the 2013
Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and
Development of Professional Regulation (Terry Barnich) Award***

February 9, 2014

I am truly honored and humbled to be receiving this award. I want to thank Chairman Snitchler for the nomination, as well as Chairman Armstrong, Vice Chairs Callisto and Salazar and the NARUC Leadership for this award. I would like to further thank NARUC and U.S. AID for the wonderful opportunities I have been afforded through the years.

The Terry Barnich Award is not something to take lightly. He was a true public servant, sacrificing all. He forged ahead with conviction and courage, in everything he touched. While my childhood resembled his, growing up in a soot-filled steel town, beyond that, I cannot hold a candle to Terry. In fact, few of us really can. Anyone who knew Terry, fleeting as it was for me, remember him as a remarkable individual. In accepting this award, I will strive to be a better person, reaching to live up to the honor associated with this recognition.

The international work of US AID, NARUC and the NARUC community means a great deal. I began regulatory international work a couple of decades ago. I stepped in, hesitantly I might add, on my first trip to the Ukraine. Since that first exchange, I have never looked back. I have learned so much over the years ranging from stories of electricity theft in the Ukraine to adaptation of a power siting model in Ghana, and a whole host of issues in between. I have visited numerous countries, exchanged ideas and experiences with regulators, utility companies, and energy ministers and had the good fortune to become an active member of the ERRA Licensing and Competition Committee. All of us are contributing to the ongoing efforts around the global regulatory work and we see the formation of regional partnerships in eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa as a result of our assistance. We are their model. We, as the NARUC community, have been successful in forging the relationships internationally for which Terry would be very proud of.

Developing such partnerships is critical to continued progress in creative thinking and developing insight to assure a secure energy future. These partnerships are considered one of the most successful foreign assistance programs ever created. There are major globalization efforts underway. Understanding world markets is increasingly important from a national security and energy future perspective. The U. S. utility industry is now associated with ownership throughout the world, and it is imperative that we understand these activities, interests and investment opportunities to further advance our own energy, environmental and economic policies.

These programs and discussions encourage regulators here at home to re-examine regulatory practices and underlying purposes. Often these exchanges, with new and different perspectives to be examined and revealed, cause us to think anew. Further, it is often the case that other nations have already met newly emerging problems encountered here at home and having that broadened network to tap can lead to a more timely and effective remedy. These shared experiences invite innovation and fresh ideas. This can often lead to new solutions to our never-ending challenges here at home and certainly the experiences enhance our domestic skill sets.

Along with the NARUC leadership, I owe many more thanks. First, to my leadership in Ohio who has afforded me the opportunity to participate globally. Thanks to my family for their support and forbearance of my absences. Many, many thanks to my PUCO colleagues, who have been so tolerant and supportive of my ever challenging requests for assistance in preparation for the exchanges, as well as covering for me during my absenteeism. Thanks to U.S. AID for the continued financial support, and last, but not least, to Director Erin Hammel and her entire International team at NARUC for their logistical support and organizational skills, their international finesse and their continued confidence in me. The NARUC International team is strong, well respected and effective - very much fulfilling their mission in achieving global well-being.

It takes significant resources to prepare for these endeavors, individually and as a team, but the benefits are enormous. I have gained insights and talents that have clearly made me a better regulator, public servant and human being. I have learned so much, and have been forced to embrace innovative thinking to be effective. I have the good fortune of having friends and colleagues around the globe, whom I cherish. I have often remarked, when asked about my international efforts, that this work is the among the most professionally and personally rewarding achievements I have made in my long and winding career as a public servant.

I am deeply honored and touched to accept this distinguished award. And for simply doing what I love makes it that much sweeter. Thank you all for providing me an opportunity to make a difference.