

**Remarks by Denise Parrish
Deputy Administrator, Office of Consumer Advocate
Wyoming Public Service Commission**

**Recipient for the 2014
*Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and
Development of Professional Regulation (Terry Barnich) Award***

NARUC 2015 Winter Meetings

Thank you very much. I am truly honored to be receiving this award. It is both humbling, and heartwarming, to have my work recognized by my colleagues.

I reluctantly entered the world of international energy regulation ten years ago. Upon getting my first call from NARUC, I said “no way.” My husband said, “Think about it.” I finally said “OK” Twenty-four countries later – and yes, I can find them all on the map -- I now say “where’s next?” Of course it is fun. But, more importantly, it is a learning experience. I have learned so very much – an amazing amount – about regulation in the USA as I prepare for these international meetings. I have also learned that the USA does not hold the key to all regulatory knowledge. Brilliant minds exist worldwide and there is much that we can learn from others. Those we interact with are indeed our colleagues and many have become my friends. The experiences have changed me and I can only hope that I have had some impact on others somewhere around the globe.

Many of my opportunities involve work with ERRA. The meetings provide opportunities to address common goals and share ideas without the need to reinvent the wheel. Giant leaps in regulatory practices have been made thanks to the support of NARUC, USAID, and the State Department. The cooperative work is making a difference.

Traveling to faraway lands is not the only opportunity available these days to promote international cooperation. The International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) is doing good work without anyone needing to leave their office. It has a history of exchanging information and best practices and involves regulators from around the world. I am proud of my involvement with ICER.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not mention the Women in Energy initiative of ICER. A group of women regulators from around the world have formally begun working together to help advance the status of women in the world of energy regulation. I was pleased to be asked to be part of this founding group. Whether you are a man or a woman, there are wonderful opportunities to be involved. Don’t worry if you are not ready to volunteer – we may be calling on you anyway.

As I stand before you, many thanks are due. First, to my husband who has encouraged me to stretch beyond my comfort level. He is amazing as he sends me off with a map and compass to lands unknown, waiting to see if I will return or if he will need to put my picture on the side of

the milk carton. Second, to NARUC and its leadership and its International Department. Their faith in me has been unwavering (I apparently haven't embarrassed them yet) and their constant support and knowledge have been a godsend. I particularly want to thank Erin, Martina and Umida for their help. Third, to my immediate colleagues and my supervisor Bryce Freeman, all of whom have supported my involvement in the international arena, some of whom nominated me for this honor, and all from whom I continue to learn about regulatory matters. Fourth, to all my travel companions over the years. The meetings and training sessions have been great and we will never forget the unique museums, strange and wonderful dinners and many toasts we have shared. Finally, to all of the regulators, here and around the world, who have changed my life in more ways than I ever imagined. Thank you.

Finally, I want to congratulate Mr. Smith on his well-deserved receipt of this Terry Barnich award. He has been a trusted traveling companion and friend as we have had the opportunity to travel the globe together. Whether he is explaining regulation through the use of soccer analogies or simply telling people that working together is the best thing that can happen, he is an amazing regulator and colleague. I am proud to share the stage with him.

My thanks to you all.