

For Immediate Release

Contact: NARUC Communications, communications@naruc.org



National Association of Clean Air Agencies Representative Mike Dowd Honored with the 2025-2026 National Council on Electricity Policy Brinch Award for Collaboration in Public Service

WASHINGTON (May 13, 2026) — At its annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, on May 5 and 6, 2026, the National Council on Electricity Policy presented the Jan Brinch Award for Collaboration in Public Service to Mike Dowd, former director of the Air and Renewable Energy Division for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Dowd’s longstanding career in public service is marked by his dedication to connecting air regulators and energy decisionmakers, helping both sides to connect their silos, enhance communication and find common ground on complex topics. He was nominated for the award by National Association of Clean Air Agencies Executive Director Miles Keogh.

"[Dowd] pioneered many of Virginia’s clean air and clean energy programs," said NCEP Vice Chair and Chair of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska John Espindola at the event. "He helped to mentor more than one generation of emerging leaders in this field, and each of them carries forward that spirit of working together."

Dowd exemplifies a true commitment to public service, having worked for more than 40 years in environmental law and policy. He joined the Virginia DEQ in 2003, acting as the agency's enforcement director, and was director of air from 2008 until he retired in December 2025. He worked previously as an attorney at a private practice in Washington, D.C. He co-chairs NACAA’s Enforcement Committee and is a past NACAA board member.

"Reflecting on my years of public service, I’ve really had a blast — I can’t think of any other career where I could have had as much positive impact and had as much fun. I would recommend a career in public service to anyone who is lucky enough to get the opportunity," said Dowd during his acceptance speech. "Another criterion to win this award is engagement and collaboration. [I]f you approach each collaborative effort with common sense, an open mind, follow the law and treat everyone with dignity, you’ll probably have done a good job."

The Brinch Award was established by NCEP in 2019 to honor Jeannette “Jan” Brinch (née Katz) and recognize public servants who, like her, see their roles as opportunities to unite people in pursuit of public interest goals within the electricity sector. Jan played a vital role in facilitating NCEP from 2014 to 2018. In her memory, her family created a [dedication video](#) in 2023. To see photos from this event, visit bit.ly/4tQY9yF.

To learn more about NCEP, visit www.naruc.org/ncep.

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.