

Resolution Calling for Improved EIA Data Collection

WHEREAS, Using energy and electricity more efficiently is an urgent local, State, and national priority; *and*

WHEREAS, Policymakers and regulators are focused on energy efficiency programs and policies that provide consumers with a better means of reducing energy consumption, lowering monthly utility bills, and mitigating the impact of energy use on the environment and on the availability and reliability of electric utility service; *and*

WHEREAS, State regulatory commissions are charged with ensuring that electric and natural gas utility programs and efficiency efforts are efficient and effective; *and*

WHEREAS, The regulatory efforts of State commissions and the ultimate success of energy efficiency initiatives rely on the availability of substantial, accurate, and timely data relating to energy efficiency programs; *and*

WHEREAS, A number of federal, regional, and State agencies and other entities – including the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC), the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB), independent system operators (ISOs), regional transmission organizations (RTOs), States, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and utilities – currently collect and model significant amounts of information on demand response, distributed generation, energy efficiency, plug-in hybrid vehicles, and smart grid programs; *and*

WHEREAS, The information collected by all these entities (a) should serve a necessary public purpose; (b) should not lead to duplicative or inefficient collection efforts; (c) should fully protect confidential or sensitive customer information; and (d) should be shared and made easily accessible to the maximum extent feasible; *and*

WHEREAS, It is important to both ascertain and collect additional information needed to ensure effective implementation and analysis of energy efficiency programs and policies for the benefit of consumers; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2009 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., hereby recommends to the Secretary of Energy that EIA:

- (i) evaluate its own collection, as well as the collection and availability from other collecting entities, the data needed to enable the best possible design and evaluation of the costs and benefits of:
 - a) energy efficiency technologies, programs, and investments;
 - b) other greenhouse gas reduction programs;
 - c) demand response programs and alternative forms of natural gas and electricity pricing;
 - d) distributed forms of power generation and storage;

- e) plug-in hybrid vehicles; and
- f) investments in the “smart grid,” including investments in new forms of electric metering, distribution system automation, and other smart grid applications; and
- (ii) expeditiously arrange to collect and make available the data needed for high-quality design and evaluation that is not already available in proper form from other sources; and
- (iii) revise its current economic and energy modeling capabilities as necessary to carry out these tasks; and
- (iv) continue to cooperate with and leverage the efforts of other State, regional and federal agencies and organizations that are collecting and modeling similar data;
and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges the Administration and Congress to budget and appropriate sufficient funds to enable these tasks to be carried out in a timely and efficient manner.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Consumer Affairs, Electricity,
Energy Resources and the Environment, and Gas
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 18, 2009*