

Resolution Encouraging FERC to Act on GRI Funding Mechanism

WHEREAS, The Committee on Gas of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has been actively involved in seeking an equitable solution for funding the research and development program of the Gas Research Institute (GRI) since the issue was raised in 1992; *and*

WHEREAS, since the stability of the long-term funding for GRI was first jeopardized by the withdrawal of two pipelines in 1992, both of which have rejoined GRI, NARUC has passed five resolutions that address the benefits of GRI's R&D and GRI's funding, the central elements of which were:

- strong continuing support for full funding of GRI and its cooperative research program,
- recognition that GRI's research program delivers timely benefits to the gas industry and its customers,
- support for a long-term stable funding base for GRI's RD&D program,
- recognition that FERC is the appropriate party to resolve the long-term funding of GRI; *and*

WHEREAS, GRI has filed its annual application for the 1998 R&D program and five year plan which is currently pending in FERC docket RP97-391-000, in which the FERC has noticed that it will render an opinion on or before November 14, 1997; *and*

WHEREAS, the industry has submitted extensive comments in FERC docket RM97-3-000 which addresses mechanisms for establishing a future funding base for GRI; *and*

WHEREAS, the pipeline companies must file revised tariffs for collecting the GRI funding surcharges on or before December 1, 1997 for the new tariffs to be effective by January 1, 1998; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC, recognizing that FERC has a very extensive workload, respectfully submits that establishing a funding base for GRI's 1998 RD&D program and five year plan must be ranked among the most important matters presently pending before the Commission; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 109th Annual Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, respectfully urges the FERC to take quick and immediate action to issue an order before the end of November 1997 that assures secure funding for GRI's proposed 1998 RD&D program.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas
Adopted November 12, 1997