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NARUC

National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

NARUC Summer Policy Summit Focuses on Reliability, Affordability and Load Growth Challenges

Board of Directors Approve Several Substantive and Honorary Resolutions

MINNEAPOLIS (July 22, 2026) — State utility regulators, state and federal officials, industry and consumer advocates convened in Minneapolis, Minn., July 19-22 for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' 2026 Summer Policy Summit, where discussions centered on maintaining reliable and affordable utility service amid rapid demand growth, extreme weather, emerging technologies and changing federal policies.

Across several days of general sessions, committee meetings, site visits and technical discussions, participants examined the expanding electricity needs associated with large-load interconnections, data center partnerships, transmission planning, clean and dispatchable generation, interregional grid coordination and the role of natural gas storage in supporting reliability and affordability.

The summit also explored how regulators can use innovation to respond to evolving consumer and infrastructure needs. Topics included artificial intelligence for predictive water-system maintenance, electric vehicle-grid integration, next-generation 911 services, broadband affordability, utility workforce development, PFAS drinking-water requirements and water scarcity.

A central theme throughout the summit was the responsibility of state commissions to balance affordability, reliability and infrastructure investment while responding to unprecedented changes in energy demand. Speakers and panelists considered strategies for accelerating generation and transmission development, strengthening gas-electric coordination, improving resilience to severe weather and ensuring that new large-load customers are integrated without unfairly shifting costs to existing customers.

“State regulators are navigating unprecedented challenges — from rapid demand growth and extreme weather to emerging technologies and major infrastructure needs — while never losing sight of the customers who pay the bills,” said Commissioner and NARUC President Ann Rendahl of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. “This summit reinforced that affordability must remain at the center of our decisions as we work to strengthen reliability, encourage necessary investment and build more resilient utility systems for the future. We appreciate all of the collaborative engagement and input from the meeting participants.”

The summit concluded with discussions on investment in clean, dispatchable generation and options for protecting affordability during a period of substantial demand growth. Technical site visits to an advanced HVAC research facility and the Midcontinent Independent System

Operator control room provided participants with additional perspectives on energy innovation and real-time grid operations.

NARUC's standing committees also advanced six policy resolutions for consideration by the Board of Directors. The proposals would:

- Reaffirm the importance of evidence-based, case-specific public utility ratemaking and state commission authority.
- Urge federal agencies to expedite reviews of new energy-generation projects.
- Encourage consideration of interregional high-voltage direct-current transmission to improve reliability, resource adequacy and affordability.
- Call on the Federal Communications Commission to protect critical utility infrastructure operating in the Lower 900 MHz spectrum band.
- Support preservation of state authority over pole attachments under Section 224(c) of the Communications Act.
- Urge Congress and the Administration to establish a permanent federal water-affordability assistance program.

The complete list of the substantive and honorary resolutions are available online at <https://bit.ly/NARUCResolutions>. November 8-11, 2026, will mark the NARUC Annual Meeting and Education Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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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.