

Resolution Urging Collaboration Between the National Electrical Safety Code and the National Electrical Code in Order to Address Code Conflicts and Gaps as Regards the Deployment of Distributed Generation Facilities, and Requesting Code Leadership to Update NARUC During its Summer 2018 Committee Meetings

Whereas the National Electrical Safety Code (“NESC”) was first published in 1914 by the National Bureau of Standards, and is today published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers through the collaborative efforts of the businesses and industries that it serves;

Whereas the purpose of the NESC is to safeguard people and utility facilities during the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply and communication facilities;

Whereas 45 States have adopted the NESC and require their regulated electric and telecommunications companies to follow it;

Whereas staff members and a commissioner from various NARUC commissions serve on NESC committees and assist with on-going efforts to update the NESC, which is revised every five years;

Whereas the National Electrical Code (“NEC”) was first published in 1897, and has been published by the National Fire Protection Association since 1911;

Whereas the purpose of the NEC is the practical safeguarding of people and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity;

Whereas permitting authorities, such as cities and counties, across the United States require that buildings, as well as electricity-producing facilities that are owned by non-utilities, adhere to the NEC;

Whereas permitting authorities are increasingly using the NEC as they inspect and issue permits for emerging electric generation technologies, such as large-scale wind and solar projects, along with large-scale storage and microgrids, when they are owned by entities that are not electric utilities;

Whereas the NEC remains the appropriate code when energy facilities are physically located behind the utility service point;

Whereas the NESC’s Main Committee will review and reconsider current safety requirements for emerging distributed generation technologies during the upcoming code cycle in order to better address emerging new technologies directly interconnected to incumbent distribution or transmission utilities;

Whereas in September of 2016, NEC and NESC leadership jointly authored a white paper entitled *Partners for a Safer Tomorrow*, in which they proposed as a first step to form a “Cross-Code Correlating Committee” to reconcile the two codes and address gaps, overlaps and discrepancies that could threaten the safety of workers, the public, or property, and that could delay distributed generation installations or add unnecessarily to their cost; and

Whereas NARUC commends the Cross-Code Correlating Committee for its work; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2018 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, DC, requests that leadership for the Cross-Code Correlating Committee present a status report to a joint meeting of the Electricity Committee and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment during NARUC's 2018 Summer Meeting, and that this status report highlight the policy issues that require resolution to harmonize the NESC and the NEC to ensure public safety.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, February 14, 2018