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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Two-Year NARUC Task Force Effort Yields New, Innovative Roadmaps for Natural Gas Resource Planning

WASHINGTON (December 18, 2025) — Culminating from two years of collaborative efforts, state commission members of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning have produced four “roadmaps” outlining visions of ideal natural gas distribution planning processes overseen by public utility commissions.

State public utility commissions are tasked by state legislatures, utilities and customers with ensuring that utility investments will result in safe, affordable and reliable service while meeting state policy goals. In 2023, commissioners from 20 diverse states collaborated in a multi-phase process to learn from each other and from a wide range of experts as they reimagined how natural gas resource planning could help them achieve those goals.

Gas Task Force members identified four topic areas that are relevant across states with varying policy goals. A cohort was formed for each topic area where dedicated members created idealized roadmaps that could serve as inspiration and starting points for themselves and colleagues throughout the United States facing similar challenges.

In practice, elements of the roadmaps would be combined to support two or more policy goals, reflecting the multifaceted priorities of state utility regulation. The objective of the roadmaps is to enhance state utility regulators’ ability to ensure reliable, affordable and safe natural gas service while also meeting state policy goals.

“State utility regulators are navigating an energy landscape that is changing more rapidly than ever. Through this Task Force, we were able to take a fresh, collaborative look at how natural gas resource planning can better support energy objectives,” said Commissioner Fitz Johnson of the Georgia Public Service Commission. “These roadmaps provide commissions with practical, flexible starting points to approach complex decisions with greater clarity and confidence.”

“The Task Force effort was a highly interactive, participatory effort involving commissioners, commission staff and subject-matter experts working closely together,” added Commissioner Tammy Cordova of the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. “We are pleased to share the final products for the benefit of other state utility regulators and stakeholders.”

Each roadmap has both visual and narrative elements and conceptualizes high-level steps in a hypothetical planning process. Each step discusses the following items:

- **Information Needs:** What information the commission needs from regulated utilities and/or stakeholders to arrive at a decision grounded in evidence.
- **Process and Participants:** How the commission engages regulated utilities and/or stakeholders in each phase of planning and in what forum(s) planning discussions will take place.
- **Outputs to Take into Next Steps:** The final product of each step is necessary to inform and enable subsequent parts of the process.

“We are grateful to the commissioners, staff and subject-matter experts who contributed their time and expertise over the past two years to the Gas Task Force,” said Danielle Sass Byrnett, senior director of the NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation, which supported the initiative. “They did so with a spirit of openness, dedication and perseverance.”

According to Commissioner Kathryn Zerfuss of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, “Our goal was to support a process that empowers states to adapt planning frameworks to their unique needs while drawing from shared experience. These roadmaps reflect the best of that collaboration and offer a foundation for continued innovation in natural gas resource planning.”

The Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning was convened with support from the U.S. Department of Energy along with staff from the NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation and contracted consultants, The Brattle Group.

The roadmaps and other Gas Task Force resources are available at bit.ly/NARUCGasTaskForce. NARUC is hosting a webinar on December 18, 2025, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET, where commissioners who participated in the development of the roadmaps will share details about their content and application. Register at bit.ly/GasRoadmapsWebinar.

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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.