



NEWS

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NGSA Applauds Resolution by State Public Utility Commissioners Supporting Access to New Supplies of Natural Gas

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), which represents State Public Utility Commissions, today passed a resolution supporting access to new supplies of natural gas at its 2001 Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA) applauds NARUC and released the following statement by R. Skip Horvath, President of NGSA:

“Access to new supplies of natural gas is becoming increasingly important, which is why the Resolution by NARUC supporting policies for new exploration is a significant signal to policymakers everywhere. U.S. demand for natural gas, a domestic fuel produced in the U.S. and Canada, continues to increase. Today, natural gas is the fastest growing fossil fuel because of its efficient and clean burning attributes, which is why 9 out of every ten electric fired generators being built today are fueled by natural gas.

“Significant portions of the U.S. natural gas resource base are off-limits to producers, as land areas around the country have been restricted from exploration through federal and state laws. Without access to new supplies of natural gas, producers fear for the long-term abundance of this rich natural resource. Long lead times are required to develop natural gas fields, and we cannot wait until we deplete our current reserves to begin to find new resources.

“NARUC’s resolution is a strong signal from those who regulate the electric utility industry that natural gas is a critical part of our current and future energy needs, and that producers can bring these supplies to market in an environmentally friendly way. The long-term planning for natural gas must equate to short-term actions allowing producers of natural gas access to new supplies of this crucial fuel.”

NARUC's resolution *encourages State Public Utility Commissions to communicate ...support to their state legislators, executive branch officials, and U.S. Congressional delegation...for federal legislation that institutes a sound national energy policy that recognizes and encourages environmentally sound development and production of new domestic natural gas supplies where appropriate.*

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