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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Georgia Commissioner Tricia Pridemore Installed as NARUC President

**“Let There Be Light” Theme Sets Priority on Meeting Increased Energy Demand
& Establishes New “Demand Roundtable” Dialogues**

Anaheim, Calif. (November 15, 2024) — At the 136th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Georgia Commissioner and President Tricia Pridemore announced the new theme for the Association: *Let There Be Light*. The focus is the need to meet the ever-increasing demand for energy across the nation.

Pridemore, along with Commissioner Ann Rendahl (Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission) and Judge Jehmal Hudson (State Corporation Commission of Virginia), were installed as president, first vice president and second vice president, respectively, during the meeting of more than 1,300 state and federal utility regulators, consumer advocates, industry and others. The four-day event, from November 10 to 13, featured sessions that covered a range of energy and utilities issues, along with workshops and special activities for attendees.

In her installation remarks, Pridemore cited the role of data centers and how it’s adding to the load growth demand. Along with data centers, manufacturing growth is another factor in increased demand. As part of the solution, she pointed to the Plant Vogtle nuclear Units 3 and 4, representing the first new nuclear units in the past 30 years — an 80-year investment that will help support electricity “for an entire generation.”

The second aspect of the theme is to highlight “the good things that are happening and share best practices” that can be applied across utility sectors, Pridemore said. To that end, she announced a new Demand Roundtable, bringing together groups of seven state commissioners, seven utilities/regional transmission operators and seven hyperscalers and mega users to discuss the critical issues surrounding increased demand. These dialogues will take place during the three national meetings convened by NARUC in 2025 (the February and July policy summits and the annual meeting in November).

“We're hoping that this open, transparent discussion can foster a dialogue that allows state commissioners to become aware and understand what this demand means for their states,” she said.

Pridemore succeeds Commissioner Julie Fedorchak, from the North Dakota Public Service Commission, whose year-long initiative was *Focused on the Future: State Regulators Leading the Way*. Early in her term, Fedorchak established the Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability Task Force and appointed Pridemore as the chair. On the first day of this year's Annual Meeting, the NARUC Executive Committee extended the charter for GEAR by nine months, to conclude in November.

Pridemore noted that the decision was predicated on “the work that we're doing and how detailed it is.” The [press release](#) announcing the charter's extension also included the Task Force's unanimous recommendation for a new Natural Gas Readiness Forum, “established so that every member of the gas and electric value chain, as well as state commissioners, can kick off each winter season with knowledge about forecasts, storage, accessibility and production,” said Pridemore.

Concerning dialogues, Pridemore participated in the first meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-NARUC Collaborative, held on the third day of the meeting. She provided background on why GEAR was established and the issues the Task Force is prioritizing, along with information on the new Gas Readiness Forum, which will develop gas-electric coordination solutions.

Resolutions

On the final day of the conference, the NARUC Board of Directors passed a series of resolutions endorsed by several standing committees of the Association.

- Resolution on Urging Clarification of Utility Recovery Bond Classification by the SEC to Lower the Cost to Energy Customers
- Resolution Supporting the Integration of Advanced Transmission Technologies in the Electricity Transmission System
- Resolution on Wildfire Impacts on Utility Customer Reliability and Affordability
- Resolution Supporting Communication and Coordination on Underground Infrastructure Safety during Broadband Deployment
- Resolution Encouraging the Federal Communications Commission to Investigate the Sale and/or Brokering of Toll-Free and Non-Toll-Free Telephone Numbers to Ensure Number Resource Optimization
- Resolution to File an Amicus Brief with the Supreme Court of the United States in “Consumers’ Research v. FCC”

- Resolution Adopting NARUC Subcommittee on Accounting and Finance's latest Revisions of the Uniform System of Accounts Reports for Water & Wastewater Utilities

All of these resolutions, including an honorary resolution for Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Vice Chairman John W. "Jack" Betkoski III (who has served on PURA since 1997), are available on the NARUC website at bit.ly/Annual24Resolutions.

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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.