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NEWS RELEASE

Arkansas's Honorable Tapped for National Energy Board

Arkansas Public Service Commission Chairman Colette D. Honorable will serve on a joint federal and state-government forum that will analyze new efforts to modernize the country's electricity grid.

The joint effort, the NARUC-FERC Smart Grid Collaborative, consists of federal and state utility industry regulators. It was developed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—the chief federal energy regulator—and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, a national association representing State utility regulators throughout the country. NARUC First Vice President Frederick Butler of New Jersey and FERC Commissioner Suedeen Kelly will serve as co-chairs of the Collaborative.

The Smart Grid Collaborative will provide an important forum for discussing technological and regulatory issues related to how new so-called "Smart Grid" technologies could improve the transmission grid and impact consumers. Experts believe the Smart Grid could give consumers more control over their electricity usage, helping them save energy and, importantly, money. Developing the Smart Grid, through the use of smart controls, two-way communications and sensors may have the

ability of reducing power consumption through demand response, improving the ability to store electricity and improving grid reliability.

Chairman Honorable was selected to fill one of the State regulatory spots by NARUC, joining 15 of her colleagues from several States and the federal government.

“New technologies have the chance to revolutionize how we use electricity in our homes and within the business community,” Chairman Honorable said. “Through this Collaborative, we will learn more about how we can develop the Smart Grid for the benefit of ratepayers here in Arkansas and across the country.”

Chairman Honorable was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission last October by Governor Mike Beebe; she became interim Chairman in January. Prior to her appointment to the PSC, Chairman Honorable served as director of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, and also served in the Arkansas Attorney General’s office in varying positions of responsibility, becoming chief of staff in 2006.

Chairman Honorable received her law degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law in 1995.

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