



National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Williams Tapped as Chair of UMAP Subcommittee; 21 Members Named

WASHINGTON—Maryland Public Service Commissioner Harold D. Williams was appointed to lead a national panel aimed at increasing business opportunities for diverse suppliers in the utility sector.

Through his appointment to chair the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access, Commissioner Williams will oversee the regulatory association's efforts in expanding awareness and building new platforms for Women, Minority, and Disable Service Veterans Business Enterprise (WMDBE) among regulated utility providers.

Commissioner Williams, a long-time champion of this cause, was tapped to this position by NARUC President Tony Clark of North Dakota. NARUC is the national association representing the State Public Service Commissioners who regulate essential utility services, including energy, telecommunications, and water. NARUC members are responsible for assuring reliable utility service at fair, just, and reasonable rates.

The Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access is responsible for furthering awareness and education regarding opportunities for diverse suppliers to participate in utilities' procurement programs, as well as encouraging utilities to review and amend, as applicable, their procurement strategies to ensure that diverse suppliers are included. Also, the panel will work with State commissions and utilities to examine best practices for including identifying market barriers and coordinating steps to remove such barriers.

Like other NARUC panels, the Subcommittee will meet at the Association's three annual meetings, starting in February 2011 during the Winter Committee Meetings in Washington.

Commissioner Williams was appointed to the Maryland Public Service Commission in October 2002. He serves on the NARUC committees on International Relations and Energy Resources and the Environment. Prior to joining the Commission, Commissioner Williams worked for more than 20 years at Baltimore Gas & Electric, serving as the utility's Director of Procurement Services, among other positions. In that role, he was responsible for the overall management of goods and services for Information Technology Department, Retail Services Division, Facilities & Fleet Service Department and Corporate Purchases.

While at BG&E, Commissioner Williams distinguished himself by his hard work and dedication, and was selected to become BGE's Procurement Opportunity Director and developed the utility's first minority business program. He served in this position for over 10 years and, in this capacity, propelled BGE's program to national recognition. He was the driving force in creating the National Minority Business Supplier Development Program, which is a nationwide organization throughout the utility industry. He is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities and champions of minority and business enterprises. As a visionary he helped shape the management structure and performance accountability systems for BGE's minority program. Additionally, he developed new markets, forged

links with people, organizations, and communities for the purpose of economic growth and development of minority and women owned business across the nation.

Commissioner Williams is a North Carolina native but has resided in Baltimore most of his life. He began his career in public service as a Police Officer for Baltimore City then as an Amtrak Police Officer. He then pursued a degree in Management Science and graduated Magnum cum Laude from Coppin State University. He later attended the Johns Hopkins University where he earned his Masters Degree in Administrative Science.

Aside from Commissioner Williams, the following NARUC members were appointed to the Subcommittee:

- Commissioner Lori Murphy Lee of the District of Columbia
- Commissioner Maureen Harris of New York
- Commissioner Colette Honorable of Arkansas
- Commissioner Mary Freeman of Tennessee
- Commissioner Nikki Hall of South Carolina
- Commissioner Timothy A. Simon of California
- Commissioner Sandra Kennedy of Arizona
- Commissioner John W. Betkoski, III, of Connecticut
- Commissioner Jollette Westbrook of Massachusetts
- Commissioner Erin O'Connell Diaz of Illinois
- Commissioner Monica Martinez of Michigan
- Commissioner Phyllis Reha of Minnesota,
- Commissioner Paul Roberti of Rhode Island
- Commissioner Michael Peevey of California
- Commissioner Arnetta McRae of Delaware
- Commissioner Douglas R.M. Nazarian of Maryland,
- Commissioner Orjiakor Isiogu of Michigan,
- Commissioner Patrick Oshie of Washington,
- Commissioner Jeanne Fox of New Jersey, and
- Commissioner Carlito Caliboso of Hawaii.

Obi Linton of Maryland was appointed as chair of the Staff Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access.

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.

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