

122nd Annual Meeting Wrap

California's Grueneich Wins Kilmarx Award

California Public Utilities Commissioner Dian Grueneich's efforts in promoting energy efficiency and clean energy has not only produced benefits for consumers, but also won the recognition of her fellow State regulators.

At the 122nd Annual NARUC Meeting in Atlanta, the Energy Resources and the Environment Committee awarded Commissioner Grueneich with the Mary Kilmarx Award. The award, given annually by the ERE Committee, is presented to those whose work reflects the Committee's goals of promoting good government, clean energy and the environment.

First awarded in 2002, the honor is named for Mary Kilmarx, a former commissioner and staff member at the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, who served as staff co-chair of the ERE Committee and provided its members with inspiration for many years.



Commissioners Morgan and Fox present Commissioner Grueneich with the Mary Kilmarx Award. The plaque is displayed in the NARUC Office.

Photo by Aida Timm

While Commissioner Grueneich has been involved in clean energy and environmental issues since starting her career in 1977 at the California Energy Commission, she solidified her reputation as a tireless advocate for affordable efficiency efforts with her work on California's 2009 Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan and other critical issues.

"Commissioner Grueneich has a clear vision for a clean energy future for California, the U.S., and the world," said ERE Committee Chair Jeanne Fox of New Jersey. "Dian represents the best of the Energy Resources and Environment Committee; her tireless efforts promoting energy efficiency, building standards and other clean-energy initiatives have not only benefited ratepayers in California, but people across the globe."

"It is an honor to be recognized by my fellow regulatory commissioners," Commissioner Grueneich said. "Commissions around the country are moving towards a clean energy future. My efforts are just part of what is going on around the country. I am humbled and share this award with the many, many people who are likewise committed to our energy future."

Commissioner Grueneich was appointed to the California PUC in 2005. She is the lead commissioner on energy efficiency, demand response, transmission planning and permitting, and low-income consumer issues. She has helped oversee the adoption of zero-net energy new building goals and the launch of the State's home-retrofit program. In addition, she has overseen the permitting of three major transmission lines that help bring more than 6,000 MW of renewable energy to the market.

In addition, Commissioner Grueneich led the State's influential energy efficiency partnership with the Jiangsu Province in China and serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee, the Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, the Executive Group of the DOE-Environmental Protection Agency State Energy Efficiency Action Network, and chairs the Demand-Side Management Group of the Western Governors Association.

Past winners of the Kilmarx Award include: Regulatory Assistance Project Director and Principal Richard Sedano; Former Vermont Public Service Board Chairman Michael Dworkin; Former Montana Public Service Commissioner Bob Anderson; Former Vermont Public Service Board Chairman Richard Cowart; and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Kathleen Hogan.