



National Energy Marketers Association

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Historic Levels of Energy Consumer Shopping Highlights the National Energy Marketers Association Fifteenth Anniversary

Washington, DC – The National Energy Marketers Association (NEM) met in executive session last week at SCRA headquarters in Charleston, South Carolina, marking the Association’s 15th year of service. “Congratulations to our members for creating what has become one of the nation’s fastest growing new industries, while at the same time helping NEM continue to support the efforts of state and federal policymakers as they craft regulatory solutions that speed the transition to truly competitive energy markets in a manner that best serves consumers and the public interest” said Craig Goodman, NEM President. “A historic number of consumers are taking advantage of energy choice options across the U.S. There are more than a million consumers shopping in each of the states of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Georgia and Texas for electricity, natural gas or both. And, I am very pleased that our members are creating more jobs, and offering more consumers both energy and technology competition than ever before,” Goodman added.

“In recent years we have seen explosive growth in retail energy markets,” said Bill Kinneary, President of North American Power, and Chair, NEM Executive Committee.

“The expiration of artificial utility rate caps in some states as well as progressive regulatory policies that support retail competition are fueling the growth of competitive markets in Texas and throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest states,” said Tony Banks, VP, Competitive Market Policies, FirstEnergy Solutions, and Vice Chair, NEM Executive Committee.

“I am pleased to have this opportunity to work closely with Craig Goodman, Tony Banks and the diverse membership of the Association’s Executive Committee during this expansion of our industry and our association,” Kinneary added.

While in executive session, NEM members identified the following policy priorities for 2012:

- Continued support for the State regulatory commissions, utilities and other stakeholders that have developed successful energy choice programs that are providing customers with real, sustainable opportunities to shop for their energy needs;
- Opening new markets for retail energy competition, and, in those markets where consumers have only limited opportunities to participate, such as California and Michigan, support elimination of artificial shopping caps;

- Providing consumers with transparent, market-based utility default service pricing as a transitional measure to the utilities exit from the commodity merchant function;
- Promoting ethical and responsible conduct among industry participants;
- Achieving greater standardization of rules to reduce the costs of doing business; and
- Ensuring reasonable credit and risk management requirements for marketers at state and federal levels.

NEM is a national, non-profit trade association representing wholesale and retail marketers of natural gas, electricity, as well as energy and financial related products, services, information and advanced technologies throughout the United States, Canada and the European Union. **You may contact NEM's Washington, DC headquarters at (202) 333-3288 or its Web site at www.energymarketers.com.**