



## Research Update *from PURC*

Summer 2008

We are pleased to introduce our electronic research newsletter designed to keep utility regulators, policymakers, and infrastructure managers informed of our research activities.

### **(When) to Build or Not to Build?: The Role of Uncertainty in Nuclear Power Expansion**

With concerns over global climate change, U.S. policymakers are exploring ways to reduce domestic dependence on coal and natural gas. No new nuclear plants have been ordered since 1978. [Read More...](#)

### **Leadership and the Independent Regulator**

Being a utility regulator has perils because the independence of the regulator necessarily removes power from politicians, operators, consumers, and others. Furthermore, regulators are sometimes scapegoats for unpopular policies and unavoidably become involved in shaping the policies that they are supposed to implement. [Read More...](#)

### **Water Utility Benchmarking for Managerial and Policy Decisions: Lessons from Developing Countries**

Those responsible for utility operations can only manage what they measure, so having information on productivity trends and relative performance enables utility managers to direct attention to shortfalls. Similarly, policymakers require quantitative analyses in order to identify utilities with strong and weak performance. [Read More...](#)

### **More Than a Lifeline: Low-Income Households' Telecommunications Preferences**

Are programs to help low-income households afford telephone service working? Maybe not, according to this recent PURC study. In Florida, low-income households can receive up to a \$13.50 discount on their monthly local phone bills through a program called Lifeline. [Read More...](#)

### **Emissions Trading**

Would emissions trading be an efficient way of implementing emissions controls for electric utilities? If so, how could it be done? [Read More...](#)

### **OOCUR as a Network of Regulatory Agencies**

Between 1990 and 2005, more than 200 regulatory commissions were created around the world to regulate private and state-owned infrastructure firms. Regional regulatory networks are comprised of representatives from national regulatory bodies who have agreed to form an association or organization that facilitates collaborative activities. [Read More...](#)

### **Explore PURC Research**

Explore more PURC research by using our [Research Papers Search](#) on the PURC website.

We invite you to forward this e-mail to those who may be interested in our work. PURC does not sell nor share the e-mail addresses of its valued contacts. We received your name as someone who may be interested in information about PURC. If you'd prefer not to receive this correspondence, visit [www.cba.ufl.edu/purc/news.asp](http://www.cba.ufl.edu/purc/news.asp), select "Leave Mailing List" and follow the instructions to opt-out.