

A Perspective on America's Path Forward to Implement Recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission

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High Level Nuclear Waste

- ▶ Storage and disposal of HLW is a national problem
 - Commercial HLW and UNF
 - Defense and government-generated HLW
- ▶ Decisions on locations for storage and disposal of HLW need to have the support of affected communities AND the states
 - Yucca Mountain Experience in Nevada
 - Experience at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico



State of New Mexico Response to BRC

- Presentations at Conferences
- Letters supporting the BRC Recommendations from Governor Martinez to DOE Secretary Chu and to Members of Congress
- Proposed Memorandum of Agreement to DOE
- Introduced a Resolution to the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)
- Support Generic Heater Tests in Salt
- Science Will Guide Decisions by the State on
 - Possible Future Missions for WIPP
 - Interim Storage and Management of UNF and HLW





Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA)

- ▶ ELEA, LLC: cities of Hobbs and Carlsbad and Eddy and Lea counties in SE New Mexico
- ▶ ELEA purchased 1000 acres of land halfway between Carlsbad and Hobbs
- ▶ Land studied during DOE Global Nuclear Energy Partnership process (2006)
- ▶ Engaging industry partners for potential UNF management facility: storage, R&D, other



ECOS Resolution

- ▶ ECOS is a national, non-partisan council of state regulators and presently is comprised of 48 states
- ▶ The resolution was considered by a workgroup of several states and was evaluated by three committees of ECOS
- ▶ The resolution was approved unanimously at the Annual ECOS Meeting in August 2012



Components of the ECOS Resolution

To address the storage and disposal of defense and commercial HLW, ECOS encourages DOE, NRC and EPA to:

- ▶ Collaborate and fund the development of scientifically-based and risk-based health and environmental standards
- ▶ Work with state agencies through ECOS in any rule making processes
- ▶ Provide states with a strong decision-making voice on activities proposed within their borders



Components of the ECOS Resolution (cont.)

- ▶ Urges DOE to provide funding to ECOS, appropriate ECOS member state(s), and third party technical experts
 - Evaluate scientific data on storage and disposal of defense and commercial HLW
 - Recommend a meaningful consultation role between NRC, EPA, DOE and the states
 - Assess how technical results should be made transparent and responsive to concerns of the States
- ▶ Encourages continued federal support and funding of research, test and demonstration projects



Community Issues

- ▶ Communities nationwide lack the experience and history in dealing with nuclear waste disposal
- ▶ Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) recently released a report* “to assist local communities in identifying and understanding the myriad of issues associated with potentially hosting a nuclear facility.”

*“A Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for the Future”

www.energyca.org



ECA/ECOS Roundtable on High Level Waste Intergovernmental Meeting, New Orleans, Dec. 2012

- ▶ Communities and states shared information to develop a list of issues that all participants agreed upon
 - Statements Where There is Agreement
 - Statements Where There is Not Agreement
- ▶ Identified state and community HLW positions and priorities
- ▶ Discussed strategies for a path forward



ECA/ECOS Key Issues for Moving Forward

- ▶ Actions DOE can take within existing law
 - Develop a phased, consent-based siting process for management and disposition of commercial and defense HLW.
- ▶ Issues that must be addressed in any future high-level waste legislation
 - Components of New Legislation
 - Revision of existing legislation (NWPA)



Outcome of the ECA/ECOS Roundtable

- ▶ The participants in the ECA/ECOS roundtable support the ECOS resolution
- ▶ The Nuclear Waste Fund should be used for what it was originally intended
- ▶ Consolidated storage should be implemented as soon as possible
- ▶ More than one geologic repository is necessary
 - There is growing momentum to prioritize DOE defense and government-generated HLW disposition first
 - Pave the way for future commercial spent fuel



Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges

- ▶ Site and license consolidated interim storage sites
 - Regional or near repository
 - Include research component (Center of Excellence)
- ▶ Pursue congressional action
 - Pending legislation
 - Amend NWPA
- ▶ Implement geologic repository regardless of fate of Yucca Mountain
- ▶ Resolve issue on commingling defense and civilian waste
- ▶ Allocate adequate resources



Thank You

