



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

# America's Nuclear Future: Taking Action to Address Nuclear Waste

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## About the Bipartisan Policy Center

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) is a non-profit organization that was established in 2007 by former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole and George Mitchell to develop and promote solutions that can attract public support and political momentum in order to achieve real progress. BPC acts as an incubator for policy efforts that engage top political figures, advocates, academics and business leaders in the art of principled compromise.



## Goal

- Spur action to address nuclear waste

## Objectives

- Expand the national and regional conversation on nuclear waste
- Develop common bipartisan interests across the United States
- Develop an implementation plan to eliminate barriers and encourage action
- Coordinate diverse groups of interested parties to take action on nuclear waste
- Establish the sense of urgency that existed after the BRC Final Report

|    | <b>Advisory Council</b><br><b>(shaded names are Executive Committee of the Advisory Council)</b>      |
|----|---|
| 1  | Vicky A. Bailey, Principal, Anderson Stratton Enterprises, LLC  |
| 2  | Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council  |
| 3  | David Blee, Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council                                   |
| 4  | Peter Bradford, Former Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Vermont                           |
| 5  | Beatrice Brailsford, Nuclear Program Director, Snake River Alliance                                   |
| 6  | Norm Dicks, Former U.S. Representative, Washington's Sixth Congressional District                     |
| 7  | Alex Flint, Senior Vice President, Governmental Affairs, Nuclear Energy Institute                     |
| 8  | Dennis Hastert, Senior Advisor, Dickstein Shapiro LLP   |
| 9  | Dick Kelly, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Xcel Energy                                |
| 10 | Richard A. Meserve, President Emeritus, Carnegie Institution for Science                              |
| 11 | Phil Sharp, President, Resources for the Future, Former U.S. Representative                           |
| 12 | Governor Ted Strickland, Former Governor of Ohio  |
| 13 | David Wright, Former Chairman, South Carolina Public Service Commission and Former President of NARUC |

## Regional Meetings

- Locations
  - Northeast – MIT, June 2014
  - Southeast – Georgia Tech. September 2014
  - Midwest – Chicago, November 2014
  - West – California, January 2015
  - Northwest – Hanford, WA, April 2015
- Private Invitation-only Meeting
  - Facilitated roundtable discussion
  - Chatham House Rule
- Public event
  - Panel discussion of relevant regional issues

### Addressing nuclear waste means different things to different people, such as:

- Making some progress, any progress.
- Disposing of highly-radioactive nuclear waste in a geological repository.
- Establishing consolidated storage with a focus on decommissioned sites.
- Finding a long-term solution rather than consolidated storage.
- Utilizing hardened on-site storage (HOSS).
- Stopping production of nuclear waste.
- Moving spent nuclear fuel from pools to dry cask storage – preferably HOSS.

### Actions to move forward may include:

- Replacing DOE with a single-purpose organization as recommended by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.
- Developing consensus papers supported by environmental NGOs, grassroots organizations, and industry.
- Initiating efforts to discuss and define framework for "consent."
- Highlighting the existence of DHLW and other defense wastes that will need long-term, geological disposal.
- State or regional solution to consolidated storage
- Emphasizing the movement of nuclear waste from the decommissioned sites to consolidated storage or geological depositories.

### Barriers to taking action include:

- Lack of leadership.
- The absence of a "uniquely organized entity" with nuclear waste responsibility.
- A lack of consensus on the definition of "consent."
- A failure to address DHLW and other defense wastes, which are lost in the discussion about civilian spent nuclear fuel
- An education gap and lack of understanding of the various and interconnected facets of nuclear waste.
- Keeping reprocessing "on the table" as a solution.
- Taking reprocessing "off the table" as a solution.

## My Perspectives:

- Flurry of Action after BRC report
- Bingaman Bill
- Interested Communities – no one to consent with
- Administration's Strategy - lack of authority?
- Flurry of Action – Gang of 4 bill
- Interested Communities – no one to consent with
- Republicans take Control of Congress – authorizing and appropriating
- WCS - Pilot Storage?
- FY2016 Congressional Budget Request