

***Resolution Supporting Limited Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel
And Preserving the Nuclear Waste Fund for a Permanent Repository***

WHEREAS, In 1982 the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) established policy that the federal government is responsible for safe, permanent disposal of all high-level radioactive waste, including spent nuclear fuel from commercial power reactors; *and*

WHEREAS, Since that time the growing demand for electricity has increased interest in the use of nuclear energy, and thereby increased attention to the issue of disposal of nuclear waste; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering various proposals to address the issue of interim and permanent storage of nuclear waste; *and*

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is encouraged that Congress is debating these important issues; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC has previously adopted and hereby affirms a set of principles that should guide congressional legislation and the implementation of the NWPA; *and*

WHEREAS, These principles include:

- The best long-term solution to isolating nuclear waste from the environment is permanent disposal in a geologic repository.
- The repository program established in the NWPA must be vigorously pursued.
- Nuclear power plant service life should not be curtailed because the government is unable to fulfill its legal responsibilities to store or dispose of spent fuel.
- Reprocessing is worthy of research but, even if feasible, does not eliminate the need for a permanent repository.
- The Nuclear Waste Fund must be managed responsibly and used only for purposes intended in the NWPA. Neither Congress nor the Department of Energy should divert it to other uses.
- The ratepayers should not pay for the Department of Energy's failure to begin accepting waste in 1998.
- The imbalance between Nuclear Waste Fund revenue and appropriations must be corrected and full access to the Fund must support achievement of repository program milestones.
- On an interim basis only, pending development of full capacity of the permanent repository, it is better to store spent fuel at central locations than to leave it at

reactor sites. The DOE and the utilities should pursue any and all such possibilities with a sense of urgency.

WHEREAS, Avoidance of unnecessary costs and risks, duplication of effort, inefficiency in transportation planning, and protracted siting processes, as well as proximity to a permanent storage facility makes Yucca Mountain worthy of consideration as the interim storage site; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of NARUC, convened in its July 2006 Summer Meetings in San Francisco, California, reaffirms its long standing support for developing the permanent repository; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That given the substantial costs and risks of multiple interim storage sites, the federal government should seek to centralize interim storage to the extent possible; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the Nuclear Waste Fund is intended for permanent waste disposal and should not be used for interim storage so long as the present inequitable appropriations process exists in which dollars spent on interim storage come at the expense of the already long-delayed development of the permanent repository.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors August 2, 2006