

***Resolution on the U.S. Department of Energy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement
for a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada***

WHEREAS, The States and their utility ratepayers are major stakeholders in the disposal of nuclear waste and have been involved in this matter since well before the passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA); *and*

WHEREAS, National policy was set in the NWPA that disposal of high-level nuclear waste shall be done in a geologic repository, and Yucca Mountain, Nevada was eventually selected as the sole site for scientific evaluation; *and*

WHEREAS, High-level nuclear waste has been accumulating at 72 reactor sites in 34 States, including many storage sites which have exceeded their capacity and others which are approaching capacity limits due to U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) failure to meet the NWPA deadline to begin receiving waste at the Repository; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE has been conducting comprehensive site characterization and preliminary design at Yucca Mountain with highly qualified professional scientists; *and*

WHEREAS, The current milestone schedule includes a Suitability Recommendation of Yucca Mountain to the President by the Secretary of Energy in late 2000 and a Nuclear Regulatory Commission License Application for the site in 2002; *and*

WHEREAS, An important supporting document for the Suitability Recommendation will be a Final Environmental Impact Statement, as required by the NWPA and the National Environmental Policy Act; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE has prepared the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and seeks public comment by February 2000; *and*

WHEREAS, The DEIS was prepared over a five-year period and is a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts of developing and operating the Repository, transporting nuclear waste to the site, and eventually closing the Repository; *and*

WHEREAS, The DEIS did not identify any potential environmental impacts that would be a basis for not proceeding with the licensing, construction, and operation of the Repository; *and*

WHEREAS, The DEIS also examined two "No Action" alternatives that would not meet the NWPA policy mandate and would leave the waste in locations and facilities around the country that were never intended for long-term storage and will result in tangible costs more than twice that of the Repository; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), assembled at its 111th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, finds the DOE's DEIS is a comprehensive report on the potential environmental impacts of

building, operating, transporting waste to, and eventually closing the proposed geologic repository that convincingly demonstrates that the repository is environmentally acceptable; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Energy should recommend Yucca Mountain as suitable to the President and Congress as soon as possible; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the “No Action” alternatives of leaving high-level waste at reactor sites indefinitely are unacceptable; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That Congress and the DOE should ensure that resources are dedicated to taking all steps necessary to make an operational Repository a reality without further delay.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Recommended by the Board of Directors

Adopted in Convention November 10, 1999