

Resolution Supporting Maintaining Continued Focus on Development of a Permanent Repository for Nuclear Waste Disposal

WHEREAS, In 1982 the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) established policy that the federal government is responsible for safe, permanent disposal in a geologic repository 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 from existing and future commercial nuclear reactors; *and*

WHEREAS, The 109th Congress failed to enact a budget for the nuclear waste disposal program for the current fiscal year and took no action on the proposed legislation to reform the Nuclear Waste Fund to provide more reliable financing of the repository program; *and*

WHEREAS, The various proposals presented last year for away-from-reactor interim storage and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel should not divert attention from the fact that in all scenarios a permanent repository is still required; *and*

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy now indicates that in order to begin repository waste disposal no sooner than 2017—nineteen years past the NWPA statutory mandate—DOE will need to submit a construction application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by June 2008; *and*

WHEREAS, In order to meet the 2008 license application milestone, the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 requests \$202.5 million from the Nuclear Waste Fund and \$292 million from the Defense Waste Fund to meet that goal; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its February 2007 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., reaffirms its long standing support for developing the permanent repository; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the 110th Congress should fully appropriate the \$494.5 million budget request for the civilian radioactive waste management program; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, The Administration and the Congress should enact legislation that will enable repository appropriations to match annual Nuclear Waste Fund fee revenue with any surplus being assured for future availability.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by NARUC Board of Directors February 21, 2007