

***Resolution Expressing Disagreement with the Opinions that Spent Nuclear
Fuel Should be Stored at Reactor Sites for 100 Years***

WHEREAS, The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982 found that previous federal efforts to devise a permanent solution for the problem of civilian (and defense) radioactive waste disposal “have not been adequate;” *and*

WHEREAS, The NWPA set the policy direction of disposal in a geologic repository, later selected in 1987 and re-affirmed in 2002 to be at Yucca Mountain, Nevada; *and*

WHEREAS, President Obama has decided that building a repository at Yucca Mountain is “not a workable option” and has taken steps to cancel further development of that site, leaving no clear alternative disposal path for spent-or used-nuclear fuel now stored at 72 locations with active and decommissioned reactors; *and*

WHEREAS, A Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future has been appointed at the President’s direction to review alternative waste management and disposal alternatives and recommend a new disposition strategy; *and*

WHEREAS, Several developments may have the unintended consequence of implying that spent-nuclear fuel should remain at reactor storage sites for an extended period of time:

- A. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a revised Waste Confidence Rule that the Commission has confidence that spent-nuclear fuel can be safely stored at either reactor sites or offsite for at least 60 years beyond the licensed life of the reactor.
- B. A report on the Future of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle study by an MIT team stated that “long-term managed storage of spent-nuclear fuel ... is believed to be safe for about a century,” while recommending a “move toward” centralized storage.
- C. A member of the Blue Ribbon Commission at an early meeting said, “There is no crisis here,” suggesting that spent fuel can be safely stored where it is for decades;
- D. Several groups appearing before the Blue Ribbon Commission over the past year who oppose Yucca Mountain have called for spent fuel to remain at reactor sites; *and*

WHEREAS, Long-term storage at reactor sites may have validity from engineering and safety standpoints, but it overlooks the facts that the federal government has been found financially liable and an estimate of that liability was last calculated to be over \$16.2 billion and would grow by \$500 million for each additional year of delay past 2020; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2011 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., considers that continued storage at reactor sites for an indefinite period is not what was planned when the reactors were built and runs counter to the NWPA; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the federal government must honor its obligations under the NWPA to dispose of spent-nuclear fuel in a permanent repository at the earliest possible date consistent with laws and regulations; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC leadership conveys its position to the Secretary of Energy, the NRC, and the Blue Ribbon Commission that storage of spent fuel at reactor sites for up to one hundred years is not consistent with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Electricity and Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 16, 2011*