

Resolution to Encourage the Development of Private Temporary Storage Facilities

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has the responsibility to dispose of spent nuclear fuel generated by utilities in their domestic nuclear power reactors; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE has a responsibility to accept title to, transport and dispose of the spent nuclear fuel generated by utilities beginning not later than January 31, 1998; *and*

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) believes the DOE will not develop a Federal high-level nuclear waste repository or facility for the storage of spent nuclear fuel which would be operational by January 31, 1998; *and*

WHEREAS, Without an operational repository, utilities are required to provide for additional temporary spent nuclear fuel storage at significant cost to the nuclear electric utility and their ratepayers; *and*

WHEREAS, The Mescalero Apache Nation, the New Corporation and other parties are interested in developing a temporary facility for the storage of spent nuclear fuel; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE and the Congress have discontinued funding the efforts of local government entities, including the Mescalero Apache Nation, to develop a Federal Monitored Retrievable Storage facility; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite the termination of funding by the Congress and the DOE, the Mescalero Apache Nation, and New Corporation and other parties continue to express their readiness to negotiate a voluntary siting agreement for an MRS as outlined in the 1987 amendments to the Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act and maintain an interest in developing such a temporary storage facility; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, By the Executive Committee of the NARUC, convened at its 1994 Winter Committee in Washington, D.C., that it supports the nuclear electric utility industry working to review the development and operation of a private temporary storage facility for spent nuclear fuel; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges DOE to advocate restoration of Phase II-B funding for prospective volunteer jurisdictions and if necessary to transfer funds from the site characterization effort for a permanent repository to this effort; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC strongly urges DOE to increase its efforts in assisting with the development of private temporary facilities; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the operation of private temporary storage facilities does not obviate the need for DOE to meet its responsibility to begin accepting fuel from utilities in 1998.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity
Adopted March 2, 1994*