October 23, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and all U.S. Senators:

The undersigned organizations seek your leadership to ensure that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) honors its commitments per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) and contracts with utilities to remove and dispose of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW) that is currently stored at operating and shutdown reactor sites – as well as DOE’s federal facilities – in 37 states and over 100 communities.

DOE has consistently failed to meet these obligations, harming electric consumers served by nuclear-generating utilities as well as all U.S. taxpayers. To best enable the federal government to honor its commitments and begin mitigating its rapidly escalating liability, Congress must appropriate funds in FY 2018 for the following critical elements of an effective nuclear waste management program (as further described in the attachment titled “FY 2018 Funding Priorities – Nuclear Waste”):

- Completion of the Yucca Mountain Licensing Review
- Implementation of Pilot Consolidated Interim Storage with Priority for Stranded Reactor Fuel
- Preparation for SNF and Defense HLW Transportation

Our organizations respectfully seek your assistance in appropriating FY 2018 funds for these priorities. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact Katrina McMurrian, NWSC Executive Director, at katrina@theNWSC.org or 615.905.1375, for more information.

Sincerely,

Robert Coward  
President, American Nuclear Society (ANS), and Principal Officer, MPR Associates, Inc.

Wayne Norton  
Chair, DPC Steering Committee, and President & CEO, Yankee Atomic Electric Co.

John W. "Jack" Betkoski, III  
President, NARUC, and Vice Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Maria G. Korsnick  
President & CEO, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

David Blee  
Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council (NIC)

Sarah Hofmann  
Chair, NWSC, and Commissioner, Vermont Public Utility Commission

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development Appropriations  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development Appropriations  
All United States Senators
FY 2018 FUNDING PRIORITIES – NUCLEAR WASTE

The Department of Energy (DOE) has consistently failed to meet its obligations concerning the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW). This inaction is harming electric consumers served by nuclear-generating utilities as well as all U.S. taxpayers. Specifically, electric consumer payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) total in excess of $40 billion (including accumulated interest, which is currently accruing at a rate of approximately $1.5 billion per year), but electric consumers have received little in return. In addition, over $6 billion in damages have been paid from the taxpayer-funded Judgment Fund, and the taxpayers’ liability continues to grow substantially in the absence of action.

To best enable the federal government to honor its commitments and begin mitigating this rapidly escalating liability, Congress must appropriate funds in FY 2018 for the following critical elements of an effective nuclear waste management program:

- **Completion of the Yucca Mountain Licensing Review.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and DOE need funding as requested to proceed with statutory duties regarding the Yucca Mountain repository license application review. DOE should also immediately re-establish the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management to manage the program in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA).

- **Implementation of Pilot Consolidated Interim Storage with Priority for Stranded Reactor Fuel.** Congress should also facilitate a pilot consolidated interim storage (CIS) facility for SNF and Greater-Than-Class-C waste stranded at shutdown nuclear sites to enable the government to begin meeting its obligations sooner and gain experience.

- **Preparation for SNF and Defense HLW Transportation.** Because development of SNF transportation infrastructure will be necessary regardless of destination, we seek funding for DOE to (i) test, certify, and procure rail cars, as well as licensed transportation casks and components in a manner that utilizes the private sector to the maximum extent practicable as required by the NWPA; and (ii) increase financial and technical assistance to tribal, state, and local governments for transportation and related emergency preparedness activities that will provide the public assurance that the health, safety, and welfare of communities will be preserved as SNF is transported.

While all of these elements are important, it is absolutely essential that Congress act now to fund the completion of the licensing process for a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. This action would send a clear message that the federal government is committed to ensuring that DOE carries out its statutory responsibility to manage and dispose of SNF and HLW.
A brief description of each signing organization follows:

The **American Nuclear Society (ANS)** is a not-for-profit scientific and educational organization, dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of nuclear science and technology. The Society is composed of approximately 11,000 professional engineers, scientists, administrators, and educators working in government, the private sector, and universities. ANS provides opportunities for professional development and operates as a forum for continued learning, the sharing of technological advancements, and engagement of policymakers and the public.

The **Decommissioning Plant Coalition (DPC)** was established in 2001 to highlight issues unique to decommissioning nuclear power plants. DPC focuses on addressing the needs of reactor sites where all operating units have permanently shutdown and are undergoing or have completed decommissioning activities.

The **National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)** is a non-profit corporation founded in 1889 that is dedicated to representing the State public service commissions that regulate the utilities providing essential services such as energy, telecommunications, power, water, and transportation. NARUC's members include all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The **Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)** is the nuclear energy industry's premier policy organization. NEI represents and serves the interests of about 300 corporate members worldwide. Acting in partnership with members on a wide range of issues, NEI works to influence public policy by representing the industry before Congress, the White House and executive branch agencies, federal regulators and state policy forums.

The **U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council (NIC)** is the leading American business consortium advocate for new nuclear energy and U.S. nuclear energy exports. Composed of nearly 100 companies, the Council represents the Who’s Who of the American nuclear energy supply chain including key movers, technology developers, construction engineers, manufacturers and services companies.

The **Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC)** is an ad hoc organization representing the collective interests of member state utility regulators, state consumer advocates, state energy and radiation control officials, tribal governments, local governments, electric utilities with operating and shutdown nuclear reactors, and other public and private sector experts on nuclear waste policy matters.
## Nuclear Waste Fund Payment Information by State

**As of September 30, 2016 (Million Dollars)**

*Payments associated by each state are based on its nuclear plant generation.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total NWF Contributions</th>
<th>One-Time Fee Outstanding</th>
<th>Allocation of Interest on NWF</th>
<th>Total Liabilities</th>
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<td>Oregon</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>3,084.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,427.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,703.0</strong></td>
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**Note:** The Department of Energy suspended collection of the Nuclear Waste Fund fee in May 2014.

**Source:** Department of Energy

**Compiled by:** Nuclear Energy Institute, updated February 2017
It’s Time to Act on America’s NUCLEAR WASTE

$40 Billion
Amount electricity customers have paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund with accrued interest

$1.7 Billion/Year
Investment interest that the Fund accumulates annually

$36 Billion
Current balance of the Nuclear Waste Fund

$2.2 Million/Day
Court-ordered damage payments from taxpayers (more than $800 million per year)

Used Nuclear Fuel in Storage
In Metric Tons
As of Dec. 31, 2016

35 YEARS
How long electricity customers have paid the U.S. Government for a solution to used fuel disposal

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

NWSC Contact Info: Phone: 615.905.1375 • Email: katrina@theNWSC.org
Permanently & Announced Shutdown Nuclear Plant Sites

1. Big Rock
Charlestown, RI

2. Connecticut Yankee
Haddam Neck, CT

3. Crystal River
Crystal River, FL

4. Diablo Canyon
Avila Beach, CA

5. Fort Calhoun
Blair, NE

6. Humboldt Bay
Eureka, CA

7. Indian Point
Buchanan, NY
Announced Shutdown, 2021

8. Kewaunee
Kewaunee, WI

9. La Crosse
La Crosse, WI

10. Maine Yankee
Wiscasset, ME

11. Oyster Creek
Leeds Point, NJ
Announced Shutdown, 2019

12. Palisades
Cevert, MI
Announced Shutdown, 2022

13. Pilgrim
Plymouth, MA
Announced Shutdown, 2019

14. Rancho Seco
Herald, CA

15. San Onofre
Pendleton, CA

16. Three Mile Island
Middletown, PA
Announced Shutdown, 2019

17. Trojan
Harbert, MI

18. Vermont Yankee
Vermont, VT

19. Yankee Rowe
Rowe, MA

20. Zion
Zion, IL

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