



**NARUC**  
National Association of Regulatory  
Utility Commissioners

## DOE-NARUC Nuclear Energy Partnership

### Overview

Given technological advances in nuclear generation and increasing state interest in retaining and encouraging zero-emission nuclear power, NARUC's Center for Partnerships & Innovation (CPI) is launching a new Nuclear Energy Partnership with support from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Through this Partnership, NARUC will provide opportunities for state public service commissioners and commission staff to better understand barriers and opportunities related to the U.S. nuclear fleet. In coordination with DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), NARUC will educate and inform state commissioners and staff on important issues surrounding the use of nuclear energy technologies. This project will include analysis on policy and regulatory issues related to existing and new nuclear generation, leading to educational briefs, workshops, and informational forums aimed at NARUC's state membership.

Commissioner Anthony O'Donnell, Maryland and Commissioner Tim Echols, Georgia will serve as Co-Chairmen of the Nuclear Energy Partnership. The Partnership will not affect the existing scope, membership, and activities of the NARUC Subcommittee and Staff Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues – Waste Disposal.

The Partnership will be officially launched in February 2021. ***NARUC invites interested PUC commissioners and commission staff to join by expressing your interest to Kiera Zitelman at [kzitelman@naruc.org](mailto:kzitelman@naruc.org) by February 22.***

### Objective

The primary objective of this project is to educate NARUC's state members about the reliability and environmental attributes of existing nuclear generation and potential applications for advanced nuclear technologies. The project will explore strategies to improve the competitiveness of the nation's existing zero-carbon nuclear fleet as well as the development and deployment of emerging nuclear generation technologies.

### Membership

Any commissioner, commissioner advisor, or commission staff member is invited to join the Partnership and be listed as a member. All NARUC members are welcome to apply for Partnership membership regardless of their existing committee or subcommittee membership(s). NARUC encourages demographic and substantive diversity across Partnership members. Expertise in nuclear energy is not required.

### Partnership Activities

Throughout the Partnership, the following types of educational activities will take place:

- Nuclear Energy Partnership dialogues at DOE or national laboratory facilities, nuclear electric generation facilities, or advanced nuclear research, development, and/or demonstration sites;
- Educational programming and resources such as webinars, peer sharing calls, briefing papers, and related materials as appropriate;



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- Discussions at NARUC meetings (organized under the auspices of NARUC's Nuclear Issues Subcommittee and Staff Subcommittee within the Electricity Committee and Electricity Staff Subcommittee) addressing key policy issues around retention of existing nuclear plants and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies and related issues, featuring researchers as participants where appropriate; and
- Participation in DOE, national laboratory, or related nuclear energy forums, workshops, and research and development (R&D) collaboratives.

### Time Commitment

We anticipate membership will involve a moderate time commitment, averaging 2 – 4 hours per month. Members should plan to join one conference call or webinar every other month and dedicate some time to responding to questions and requests from NARUC staff. The Partnership may involve voluntary travel (up to two trips per year, two to three days per trip) to tour advanced nuclear R&D facilities when it is safe to do so, with travel reimbursement available from DOE in accordance with federal travel regulations.

### Benefits of Joining

- Opportunity to explore new and emerging nuclear technologies
- Engage with other state and federal officials to better coordinate technical, environmental, and economic issues relating to the use of nuclear energy
- Elevate your state's success stories and challenges regarding nuclear energy to a national forum
- Access experts from the DOE, national labs, nuclear electric generation facilities, utilities, advanced nuclear manufacturers and R&D firms, and other stakeholders
- Learn from other states about successful approaches and best practices

### How and When to Join

NARUC commissioners, commission advisors, and commission staff members are invited to join the Partnership. Please contact Kiera Zitelman at [kzitelman@naruc.org](mailto:kzitelman@naruc.org) by **Monday, February 22** to request to join the working group.