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NARUC and NASEO Release Coal to Advanced Nuclear Report and Facilitate Site Visit to Further Enrich Learning Opportunities for State Officials

WASHINGTON (May 24, 2024) — The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the National Association of State Energy Officials have released a new report, [*Coal to Nuclear Repowering: Considerations for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions*](#). This report provides State Energy Offices and public utility commissions with essential information about issues involved in converting retired or retiring coal power plant sites to host new nuclear generation resources.

With coal power plant closures occurring at increased rates this decade, one method of maintaining the value of these facilities is by transitioning the sites to host small modular reactors. The *Coal to Nuclear Repowering* report highlights some of the benefits and challenges associated with the coal to nuclear repowering process, with a particular focus on the policy, programmatic and regulatory considerations of relevance to State Energy Offices and PUCs.

“NARUC supports PUCs contending with complex emerging questions about how to meet energy needs most effectively and efficiently in their states. This new report adds to the suite of NARUC and NASEO resources on emerging advanced nuclear technologies,” said NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation Senior Director Danielle Sass Byrnett. “*Coal to Nuclear Repowering* provides essential facts and key questions about implementing advanced nuclear plants at retired coal plant locations to assist PUCs in envisioning the steps that would be involved in moving forward with this strategy.”

“State Energy Offices are identifying advanced nuclear policy opportunities aimed at meeting rapidly growing power demand, reducing emissions and expanding economic development in their states,” added NASEO President David Terry. “This report provides comprehensive information to State Energy Offices on the opportunities and challenges associated with coal to nuclear repowering and informs their policy development and planning actions.”

From April 24 to 26, 2024, members of NARUC, NASEO and the National Governors Association convened in Knoxville, Tennessee, for a series of discussions and tours at Oak Ridge National Laboratory focused on advanced nuclear deployment. State representatives shared lessons learned, barriers and opportunities to deploy advanced nuclear projects in their communities and examined some of the economic development and workforce pathways. They also heard from local government, industry and academic leaders about initiatives in the Oak

Ridge area to capture the economic, energy and environmental benefits of the nuclear energy supply chain. Speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy and national laboratories discussed federal resources available to support states in deploying advanced nuclear generation. Finally, state participants provided input into the development of a forthcoming state nuclear framework guidance document designed to facilitate advanced nuclear deployment.

“Hosting a convening of State Energy Offices, PUCs and governor’s offices from across the country here in Tennessee allowed us to showcase the innovative work being done to accelerate advanced nuclear deployment at Oak Ridge National Lab, state universities and throughout local and state government,” said Molly Cripps, director of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Energy Programs. “Workshop attendees were able to hear directly from nuclear energy leaders in the state and better understand some of the lessons learned and key opportunities for nuclear energy in the Southeast and nationwide, particularly related to energy reliability and economic development.”

The *Coal to Nuclear Repowering* report and the site visit to Knoxville were produced and coordinated through the Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative with support from the U.S. DOE-NARUC Nuclear Energy Partnership. The ANSC convenes state utility regulators and State Energy Officials to enhance collective understanding of the unique regulatory and policy questions surrounding the consideration and deployment of new nuclear generation and to support peer learning and information exchange across states.

For questions, contact NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation Technical Director Kiera Zitelman (kzitelman@naruc.org) or NASEO Program Director Kelsey Jones (kjones@naseo.org).

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.

About NASEO

NASEO is the only national non-profit association for the governor-designated energy officials from each of the 56 states and territories. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO facilitates peer learning among state energy officials, serves as a resource for and about State Energy Offices and advocates the interests of the State Energy Offices to Congress and federal agencies.