

Southern States Energy Board

“Interim Storage of Used Nuclear Fuel in Voluntary Communities”

WHEREAS: Nuclear utility ratepayers in the South and throughout the United States have contributed more than \$30 Billion in fees and interest, as mandated under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA), for the purpose of removing used nuclear fuel from commercial reactor sites and defense-related high-level radioactive waste from defense sites; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Government failed to satisfy the NWPA’s statutory requirement to begin accepting used nuclear fuel in 1998 and, indeed, has failed to meet the terms of its contracts with U.S. nuclear plant operators; and

WHEREAS: The 104 operating U.S. commercial reactors have accumulated some 77,000 metric tons of used nuclear fuel, including approximately 7,700 metric tons stored in 711 dry casks stored safely on-site at 45 nuclear plants in 13 states in the Southern States Energy Board region; and

WHEREAS: The current Administration has terminated and Congress has ceased funding of all activities related to the license review or further development of a permanent central disposal repository at the Yucca Mountain Project in Nevada, which had been the Federal Government’s only intended destination for used commercial fuel and defense-related waste; and

WHEREAS: The State of South Carolina and other parties remain involved in lawsuits attempting to compel the Federal Government to meet its obligations under the NWPA; and

WHEREAS: The current Administration in January, 2010 appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future comprised of distinguished American scientists and nuclear policymakers to review various alternative options and make recommendations for future safe management of U.S. commercial used nuclear fuel and defense waste; and

WHEREAS: The Blue Ribbon Commission has recommended an integrated nuclear fuel management program incorporating: 1) Development of one or more Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed private or government-owned centralized interim storage facilities in communities in states that would willingly host such facilities; 2) Continued public and private sector research, development and deployment of used fuel and nuclear waste recycling technologies to close the nuclear fuel cycle in a safe, environmentally responsible, proliferation-resistant and economically viable process; and 3) Assured access by the nuclear waste program

to revenues generated by consumers' continued payments and to existing balances in the Nuclear Waste Fund; and

WHEREAS: A number of prominent organizations of state officials, including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the American Legislative Exchange Council and The Energy Council, have generally endorsed the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations and specifically endorsed establishment of one or more centralized NRC-licensed interim fuel storage facilities in volunteer host communities; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board calls on the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress:

1. To adopt legislation enabling the construction of one or more centralized interim fuel storage facilities through directives to the U.S. Department of Energy and through incentives to interested communities funded through access to the accumulated Nuclear Waste Fund.
2. To recognize there are willing host communities and states that are ready to voluntarily accept used fuel and defense waste shipments.
3. To assure access by the Nuclear Waste Management program to the revenues generated by consumers' continuing fee payments and to the significant balance in the Nuclear Waste Fund.
4. To enable one or more NRC-licensed private interim storage facilities to meet this public policy need of the Southern States Energy Board region and the United States as a whole.