



Unanimously Adopted on September 25, 2017

Resolution sponsored by: Governor Henry McMaster, South Carolina*
Representative William E. Sandifer, III, South Carolina
Representative Gary Staples, Mississippi

5.2017 | Supporting Advancement of a National Repository for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-level Radioactive Waste

WHEREAS, nuclear utility ratepayers in the South and throughout the United States have contributed more than \$46 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 has failed to meet the terms of its contracts with U.S. nuclear plant operators; and

WHEREAS, the 99 operating U.S. commercial reactors have accumulated some 79,000 metric tons of used nuclear fuel which is currently stored on site in 34 states of which 13 of the states are located in the Southern States Energy Board region; and

WHEREAS, the former 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 issued a report in 2012 recommending an integrated nuclear fuel management program incorporating:

1. A new organization dedicated solely to implementing the waste-management program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed;
2. Access to the funds nuclear utility ratepayers are providing for the purpose of nuclear waste management;
3. Prompt efforts to develop one or more geologic disposal facilities;
4. Prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities;
5. Prompt efforts to prepare for the eventual large-scale transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste to consolidated storage and disposal facilities when such facilities become available;
6. Support for continued U.S. innovation in nuclear energy technology and for workforce development;
7. Active U.S. leadership in international efforts to address safety, waste management, non-proliferation and security concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has proposed \$120 million in funding to reinstate 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



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

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

1. To adopt legislation advancing the resumed construction of the Yucca Mountain national repository in Nevada in addition to 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 host interim storage sites and 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; and
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 in conjunction with the development of the national repository.