



Policy Resolution 08.2020

Adopted Unanimously on September 29, 2020

Commending the Collaborative Efforts of Congress, the U.S. Department of Energy and Its National Labs, and Electric Utilities and their Supplier Community to Develop and Deploy New Reactors and Other Innovative Carbon-Free Nuclear Technologies

Originating Sponsor

Representative John Ragan, Tennessee

Co-Sponsors

Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee

Commissioner David Salyers, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Governor's Alternate

WHEREAS, a number of states and utilities throughout the Southern States Energy Board region and across the Nation have committed to ambitious, total or near-total decarbonization goals in the electricity sector within the next three decades; and

WHEREAS, the South's steady progress toward a clean energy future already relies in part on preserving its existing nuclear plant fleet (including extending operations for some plants beyond 60 years) and building new reactors and will increasingly require the design and deployment of new nuclear generating capacity featuring smaller modular designs and other innovative reactors, new nuclear fuels and other advanced technologies; and

WHEREAS, the development of risk-informed, performance-based and technology-inclusive licensing processes previously supported by SSEB, which Congress required with passage of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act of 2019, has helped pave the way for regulatory reviews to be aligned with the inherent safety characteristics, smaller reactor cores and simplified designs of advanced reactors; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Nuclear Energy Leadership Act pending in Congress would boost investment in research and development, fuel security, and the nuclear workforce of the future; and

WHEREAS, Federal appropriators from both parties have encouraged these efforts with significant funding through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to complement private investment and public-

private partnerships, with involvement of many prominent players from the SSEB region while leveraging the world-class expertise of the National Labs, including the Oak Ridge and Savannah River National Laboratories to ensure that new nuclear technologies are built and online in this decade; and

WHEREAS, DOE has devised three separate pathways for funding advanced nuclear collaboration through an Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program that will support licensing and construction of two reactors that are expected to be operational within seven years, and two other funding pathways for up to seven additional innovative nuclear projects that are in earlier stages of development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board recognizes that development and deployment of advanced nuclear technology is an important component to the region's continued leadership in providing clean, innovative, reliable energy solutions for its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSEB commends the timely, collaborative, bipartisan efforts at the federal level in assisting U.S. nuclear utilities' and suppliers' plans to speed innovative technologies to the grid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSEB requests that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Southern Congressional Delegations, the President of the United States, the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Committees on Appropriations, Environment & Public Works and Energy & Natural Resources and the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations, Energy & Commerce and Science, Space & Technology, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy.

