



Proposed Policy Resolution 5.2021

Adopted Unanimously on September 28, 2021

Study Commission for the Commercial Application of Existing Technology to Reclaim and Repurpose Spent Nuclear Fuel

Sponsor

Representative Rick Beck, Arkansas

WHEREAS, the Arkansas General Assembly has conducted extensive research since 2016 toward the implementation of a study to extol the benefits of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission issued a recommendation in support of a partnership between the University of Arkansas and the Department of Energy's National Laboratories to explore options on using existing technology to convert spent fuel into fresh fuel; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Joint Committee on Energy approved an interim study resolution and held a meeting with Arkansas' nuclear utility to discuss the integration of the State's institutions of higher learning to examine the benefits of new nuclear compared to the risk of on-site interim storage; commercial deployment of advanced nuclear and spent fuel reprocessing methods; and for the development of a program funded by the Departments of Health, Energy and the Environment to support these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor shall work collaboratively and hold meetings periodically regarding the study on the commercial application of existing technology to reclaim and repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods; and will issue a final written report of their activities, findings, and recommendations by December 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the southern region benefits from a diverse energy portfolio and recognizes the need to resolve the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle in order to maintain the efficient operations and meet carbon reduction goals; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages and supports the commissioning of this study to include an assessment of a specific program to offer to the federal government to include a proposed location in Arkansas and for the assets required to close the nuclear fuel cycle and acquisition of funding for the establishment of an education, risk analysis, and optimization design program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board advocates the assemblance of a group of knowledgeable stakeholders to submit a funding application to the U.S. Department of Energy, including, without limitation, individuals from the: General Assembly; Executive department; University of Arkansas; and Argonne National Laboratory.