

Greg R. White, Chairman
Commissioner, Michigan Public Service Commission

Renze Hoeksema, Vice Chairman
Director of State Affairs, DTE Energy

Robert W. Capstick, Jr., Finance
Director of Regulatory Affairs, 3 Yankee Companies

Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr., Communications
Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission

David A. Wright, Ex-Officio
President, Wright Directions, LLC



DATE: April 30, 2015
TO: Congressional Offices
FROM: Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition
RE: Call for action toward used fuel removal

The federal government should act now to meet its statutory and contractual obligations under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to promptly remove used nuclear fuel from existing and decommissioned reactor sites in our states. Electric consumers have paid in excess of \$40 billion (including interest) into the Nuclear Waste Fund. Consumers have dutifully met their legal obligation over the last 30 years, but the federal government has not. In the 2016 appropriations process, Congress has an opportunity to fund:

- ***Yucca Mountain License Application Completion.*** The NRC's independent review of Yucca Mountain as a geologic disposal facility is well advanced. In response to the Court's 2013 mandamus, the NRC completed and released the Safety Evaluation Report in January 2015 and found that Yucca Mountain meets the NRC safety requirements as a permanent repository. Therefore, Congress should fund the completion of the license application review and continue its aggressive oversight by directing DOE to support the license application.
- ***Consolidated Storage with Priority for Shutdown Reactor Fuel.*** Congress and the Administration should facilitate consolidated storage as a way for the federal government to begin meeting its obligations, particularly removal of used fuel stranded at sites without an operating reactor.
- ***Other Key Elements.*** Direct DOE to prepare the nation's transportation infrastructure to support consolidated storage and a repository program; certify a rail car(s) for use with licensed and anticipated transportation casks; and engage potential host communities.

In addition to these appropriations-related issues, we continue to support funding and governance reform for the nuclear waste program. Your leadership is needed to advance these critical elements of a working nuclear waste program. We welcome the opportunity for further discussion and stand ready to work with you.

*The **Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition** is an ad hoc organization representing the collective interests of state utility regulators, consumer advocates, tribal governments, local governments, electric utilities, and other public and private sector experts, on nuclear waste policy matters. NWSC's primary focus is to protect ratepayer payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund and to support the removal and ultimate disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste currently stranded at some 125 commercial, defense, research, and decommissioned sites in 39 states. For more information, please contact Katrina McMurrian, the NWSC Executive Director, at the number or email address below.*