



**NEI's Top 10
Nuclear Energy Industry Issues
For the 109th Congress**

- ▶ **Security of Nuclear Plants and Facilities** – NEI is working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Homeland Security to support security requirements that are consistent with national homeland security plans and approaches to infrastructure protection. NEI supports legislation that will improve protection for nuclear plants, including measures to identify responsibilities of the private sector and governmental agencies, clarify use of force authority for plant security forces, expedite security reviews, and enhance training and federal funding for local government first responders.
- ▶ **Stimulating Investment in New Nuclear Energy Capacity** – To maintain reliable supplies of electricity at reasonable costs, the United States must take steps to encourage investment in critical energy infrastructure, including new electric transmission facilities and new baseload power plants, including new nuclear plants. This investment stimulus will require changes to outdated tax laws - established before the emergence of competition in the electric sector - to provide the electricity sector similar treatment to other capital-intensive industries. Maintaining nuclear energy's role as the nation's largest provider of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity will also require legislative recognition of, and credit for, the emission-free characteristics of nuclear energy.
- ▶ **Environmental Benefits of Nuclear Power and Hydrogen Economy** – Nuclear power is the only large-scale form of electricity generation that does not emit air pollutants, and nuclear's contributions to cleaner air must be recognized. A main focal point will be on nuclear energy industry initiatives to improve air quality and ensuring that emissions prevented by nuclear energy are treated equally with other sources of prevented emissions, such as renewable energy.
- ▶ **Budget and Appropriations for Nuclear Energy** – NEI will be active on budget and appropriations issues to ensure adequate funding for the Yucca Mountain project through a change in the budget treatment for the Nuclear Waste Fund. NEI supports the president's budget request for used fuel programs. NEI also focuses on ensuring the Nuclear Regulatory Commission budget is funded at levels consistent with efficient and effective regulation, improving funding for new plant deployment and current reactor research and development, creating funding for next generation nuclear plants and hydrogen production, encouraging university funding, and eliminating dual regulation of radiation standards by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- ▶ **Used Nuclear Fuel Management** – Following congressional approval of Yucca Mountain as the national permanent repository for used nuclear fuel in July 2002, NEI has continued to support adequate funding for the repository, reclassifying rate payer contributions to the Nuclear Waste Fund, address the continued legal challenges to the project, refine processes leading to federal licensing of the repository, and ensure that a national transportation plan for shipping fuel to Yucca Mountain is implemented.
- ▶ **Renewal of the Price Anderson Act** – It is essential for the future of nuclear power that this act is renewed permanently. For nearly a half century, the Price-Anderson Act has served the nation well, providing an industry-funded insurance program that provides a no-fault, expeditious approach to responding to the unlikely occurrence of a nuclear incident.

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- ▶ **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** – The industry must continue to develop a stable, safety-focused regulatory process that reduces requirements not related to plant safety.
- ▶ **Emergency Preparedness** – The review and updating of emergency preparedness programs to meet reasonably perceived contingencies is critical to public safety.
- ▶ **Improving and Modernizing Current Nuclear Plants** – Through the constant upgrading of components, including the performance of fuel, the industry ensures the continuous safe, reliable and efficient operations of nuclear power plants.
- ▶ **Work Force Issues** – With the significant number of retirements facing the industry beginning in the next several years, the industry must ensure that thoroughly trained, professionally competent replacements are available.

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