

Summary of Potential Implications for NRC of the Blue Ribbon Commission Key Elements

Key Element of Blue Ribbon Commission's Strategy	Legislative Change(s) Identified by BRC	Potential Implication for Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Regulatory Framework Identified by NRC staff	Potential Implication for Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Program Activities Identified by NRC staff
(1) "A new, consent-based approach to siting future nuclear waste management facilities."	Change to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.	None.	Adapt public outreach strategies.
(2) "A new organization dedicated solely to implementing the waste management program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed."	Change to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.	May need to assess existing procedures for licensing a geologic repository (e.g., 10 CFR 2 specifies an application from DOE).	None.
(3) "Access to the funds nuclear utility ratepayers are providing for the purpose of nuclear waste management."	Change to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.	Contingent upon adopted National Policy (e.g., Nuclear Waste Policy Act currently requires Congress to appropriate funds to the NRC for regulatory activities).	NRC budget formulation and execution process changes may be needed.
(4) "Prompt efforts to develop one or more geologic disposal facilities."	Change to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to permit consideration of sites other than Yucca Mountain.	Rulemaking to update current non-site-specific disposal regulation (i.e., 10 CFR Part 60) to be risk informed and performance based. Rulemaking for deep borehole disposal and waste classification.	Continue alignment with EPA. Update regulatory basis for disposal in a repository. Develop regulatory basis for borehole disposal.
(5) "Prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities."	Change to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to allow the federal government to construct a Monitored Retrievable Storage installation independent of the schedule for licensing a geologic disposal facility.	Rulemaking to revise conditions for licensing a monitored retrievable storage facility that are consistent with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.	Potential increased licensing, oversight, security plan approvals.
(6) "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."	None.	None.	Potential increased licensing, oversight, route approvals, security plan approvals and state interactions. Reassess plans for the Package Performance Study.
(7) "Support for continued U.S. innovation in nuclear energy technology and for workforce development."	None.	Regulatory framework development for advanced technologies (e.g., reprocessing facilities).	Continued regulatory research program on advanced nuclear technologies.
(8) "Active U.S. leadership in international efforts to address safety, waste management, non-proliferation, and security concerns."	None.	None.	Continued cooperation and assistance in international efforts. Review existing waste classification system.

ENCLOSURE