



USA Activities on Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) Final Report - Stakeholder Engagement

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Outline

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Background: Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

- Formed at the direction of the President to Secretary of Energy and included leading experts
- Conducted a comprehensive review of polices for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle; not a siting commission
- Detailed analysis, with eight major recommendations



BRC Final Recommendations

- BRC proposed a national nuclear waste management strategy with eight key elements, including:
 - New, consent-based approach to siting future nuclear waste management facilities
 - New organization dedicated solely to implementing the waste management program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed
 - Access to the funds nuclear utility ratepayers are providing for the purpose of nuclear waste management
 - Prompt efforts to develop one or more geologic disposal facilities

BRC Final Recommendations (cont.)

- BRC proposed a national nuclear waste management strategy with eight key elements, including:
 - Prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities
 - 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
 - Support for continued U.S. innovation in nuclear energy technology and for workforce development
 - Active U.S. leadership in international efforts to address safety, waste management, non-proliferation, and security concerns



DOE's Activities related to BRC Final Report

- US Congress tasked DOE to develop a strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and other nuclear waste; an internal DOE review is underway
- DOE internal review will assess, and may supplement, BRC recommendations at more detailed level



NRC's Activities

- NRC staff reported to Commission on implications of BRC recommendations (SECY-12-0037)
- Several BRC recommendations are consistent with already ongoing NRC regulatory activities:
 - Extended storage and transportation program
 - Research on alternative disposal options
- NRC cannot implement several BRC recommendations until statutory changes are made



BRC Recommendations: Stakeholder Outreach

- BRC recommendations recognize the importance of meaningful and comprehensive stakeholder engagement in new nuclear waste management strategy (consent-based siting)
- Role of implementing organization (DOE or new organization) in stakeholder engagement to evolve as new siting process is adopted
- NRC's efforts to engage stakeholders will continue to emphasize its role as independent regulator as new strategy develops

Lessons Learned from Stakeholder Interactions

- US experience has highlighted the importance of several elements for stakeholder confidence in waste management strategy:
 - Establishing fair, predictable, and transparent decision-making processes, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all participants;
 - Providing meaningful and frequent opportunities for public to participate and interact with decision-makers;
 - Ensuring communications with the public are specifically tailored to the audience (technical or non-technical), and;
 - Ensuring that final decisions are based on an objective evaluation of all relevant information and evidence

Summary

- BRC has recognized the importance of consent and public engagement for successful implementation of a new nuclear waste management strategy
- DOE has been tasked to develop a strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and other nuclear waste -- awaiting the results of its internal review
- The NRC will continue to highlight its independent role and adapt its approaches for effective stakeholder engagement
- Experience from US and international efforts to site nuclear waste facilities will inform development of new strategy