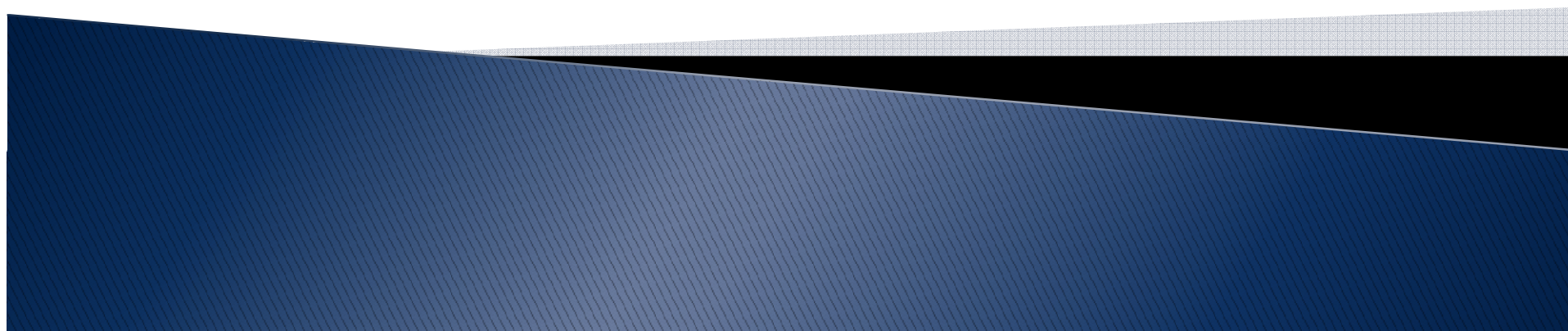




BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION
ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE

Draft Recommendations

Disposal Subcommittee
May 13, 2011



Disposal Subcommittee Members

- ▶ Chuck Hagel – Co-chairman
- ▶ Jonathan Lash – Co-chairman
- ▶ Mark Ayers
- ▶ Vicky Bailey
- ▶ Susan Eisenhower
- ▶ Allison Macfarlane
- ▶ Per Peterson
- ▶ John Rowe
- ▶ Lee Hamilton – Ex Officio
- ▶ Brent Scowcroft – Ex Officio



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Key Question to the S/C:

“How can the United States go about establishing one or more facilities for permanently disposing of high-level nuclear wastes in a manner and within a timeframe that is technically, socially, economically, and politically acceptable?”



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S/C Meetings

- ▶ Open meetings (Washington, DC):
 - July 7, September 1, and November 4, 2010
- 3 closed deliberative session and a classified briefing
- International meetings:
 - Finland: October 21–22, 2010
 - Sweden: October 23–26, 2010
 - Japan: February 8–11, 2011
 - Russia: February 17–19, 2011
 - France: February 19– 23, 2011



Recommendation #1

- ▶ The United States should proceed expeditiously to develop one or more permanent deep geological facilities for the safe disposal of high-level nuclear waste.
 - Permanent disposal is needed under all reasonably foreseeable scenarios.
- ▶ Geologic disposal in a mined repository is the most promising and technically accepted option available for safely isolating high-level nuclear wastes for very long periods of time.



Recommendation #2

- ▶ A new, single-purpose organization is needed to develop and implement a focused, integrated program for the transportation, storage and disposal of nuclear waste in the United States.

- ▶ The new organization should have:
 - (a) a focused and well-defined mission,
 - (b) the financial and institutional means to deliver on its commitments, and
 - (c) sufficient independent authority—subject to appropriate financial, technical, and regulatory oversight—to provide institutional and programmatic stability over time.

- ▶ Congress would play a central role in ensuring the accountability of a new waste management organization.



Recommendation #3:

- ▶ Assured access to the balance in the Nuclear Waste Fund and to the revenues generated by annual Nuclear Waste Fee payments from ratepayers and utilities is absolutely essential and must be provided to the new nuclear waste management organization.



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Recommendation #4:

- ▶ A new approach is needed to site and develop nuclear waste management and disposal facilities in the United States in the future. We believe siting processes for all such facilities are most likely to succeed if they are:
 - (1) consent-based
 - (2) transparent
 - (3) phased
 - (4) adaptive
 - (5) standards- and science-based



Recommendation #5:

- ▶ The current division of regulatory responsibilities between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is appropriate and should continue.
- ▶ In addition, we urge that new, site-independent safety standards be developed by the two agencies in a formally coordinated joint process that actively engages and solicits input from all the relevant constituencies.



Recommendation #6:

- ▶ The roles, responsibilities, and authorities of local, state, and tribal governments with respect to facility siting and other aspects of nuclear waste disposal must be an element of the negotiation between the federal government and the other affected units of government in establishing a disposal facility.
- ▶ All affected levels of government (local, state, tribal, etc.) must have, at a minimum, a meaningful consultative role in important decisions; additionally, states and tribes should retain—or where appropriate, be delegated—direct authority over aspects of regulation, permitting, and operations where oversight below the federal level can be exercised effectively and in a way that is helpful in protecting the interests and gaining the confidence of affected communities and citizens.



Recommendation #7:

- ▶ The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board be retained as a valuable source of independent technical advice and review.
- ▶ Members should represent a carefully considered mix of scientists and engineers with the relevant mix of expertise.



Questions, Comments, Suggestions?



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