

**Summary of Presentation
Blue Ribbon Commission
Disposal Subcommittee
W. Gary Gates, President and CEO
Omaha Public Power District**

Omaha Public Power District is a publicly owned utility located in Omaha, Nebraska that serves a population of 765,000 people, more than any other electric utility in the state of Nebraska.

The utility owns and operates a single unit nuclear plant Fort Calhoun Station. We began commercial production of electricity at that plant in 1973. In 1993, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) granted a 5- year extension to the operating license for Fort Calhoun Station, which allows the plant to operate until 2013. Before granting the extension, the NRC had to determine that the plant was in good physical condition and able to run safely throughout that time period.

Fort Calhoun Station personnel manage spent fuel with the same rigorous safety standards applied to plant operation. Like many other plants, Fort Calhoun Station currently stores its spent fuel on site using a dry cask storage system. To date we have 320 assemblies in ten dry storage systems on site.

However, we do expect policies and programs that will ultimately manage commercial used fuel as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. As president and CEO of the Omaha Public Power District and as Chairman of the Board of the Nuclear Energy Institute, I concur with NEI's principles that the Nation must have a durable policy to manage used nuclear fuel responsibly. We must have a plan for the ultimate disposal. Non-proliferation goals must be met and the successes and failures of the past must be heeded. In addition, the industry sees the need for a federal corporation to take over the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle to enable the country to make progress on these vital programs.

For the short term, however, managed storage at nuclear power plants is a workable option, but centralized interim storage should be considered as another short term solution of used fuel management. Used fuel could be safely stored at a central storage facility for at least 60 years beyond the operating life of any reactor. The industry, NRC and DOE are looking into the requirements for storage beyond that period of time.

I believe there are workable solutions and evidence of such solutions for site selection of such a facility that could avoid some of the issues of the past.

In summary, nuclear power is poised for growth to meet America's energy needs and environmental goals, but we need a plan and a pathway to manage used fuel.

