

Policies and Processes for Implementing National SNF/HLW Strategy In Our Federal System of Gov.

Western Governors' Association

Blue Ribbon Commission, Disposal Subcommittee: July 7,
2010

WGA appreciates the invitation.

Hope to have further opportunity.

Through WGA, Western Governors coordinate policy, e.g.

- MOA with DOE: Transportation of TRU waste to WIPP
- Coop. agreements with DOE: Regional transp.planning.

WGA's May 24 Letter to Secretary Chu

Strategy for back end of nuclear fuel cycle: of serious interest.

Western states: a major source of experience and insight.

Full opportunity for state government participation:

- *Individual state* participation (e.g. NV, NM)
- Participation on *regional basis*, re activities of BRC & DOE.
- *Independent inquiry*: Political and institutional approach for implementation of a SNF/HLW strategy in our federal system of government.

Independent Inquiry: Policies and Processes for Rebuilding Public Trust

Bunn: The most important BRC contribution.

Designed w/in federal system, via fed-state-local interaction.

Key resource re what went right & wrong & why: state government officials.

Systematic review and assessment, independently conducted.

BRC set scope, direction, expectations; emphasize crucial role.

Implications for SNF/HLW management entity.

Political and Institutional Approach: Why Crucial in This Policy Area

Public dread of highly radioactive material (C. Mooney)

Federal program managers mistrusted.

Federal policies cut very differently among states, localities:
Implications for “fairness.”

Failures and successes = f (implementation policies and processes)

Western States' Experience: 25 Years

Disposal: site screening, characterization, selection

Off-site SNF storage: federal, private sponsors

Interim HLW storage (+ DOE, Navy SNF)

TRU waste generation, storage, transp, disposal (at WIPP)

**13 operating reactors; 7 shutdown reactors; 18 research reactors;
10 dry storage licensees; 4 LLRW disposal facilities.**

Ground-level experience: what went right, wrong & why.

Application to the BRC's Comprehensive Review

Daunting array of questions:

- Options for strategy components, decision-making, legal & commercial arrangements, management, legislation.
- We add others, re *disposal*, interim storage, transportation, general federal-state-local interactions.

WGA policies, developed in context of the NWPA:

- Conditions for interim storage;
- Honor federal-state agreements: e.g. CO, WA, ID;
- Policies and processes for TRU waste transp. To WIPP.

A political and institutional approach for implementation in our federal system of government, rebuilding trust.....
As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew (A. Lincoln, Dec. 1, 1862).