

**Summary of a Presentation to
The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
Subcommittee on Storage and Transportation**

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This presentation will briefly address:

1. *States role in licensing of spent nuclear fuel storage sites* – states have not typically been involved in licensing of fuel cycle facilities and therefore cannot answer the specific questions posed for the group. However, state programs are responsible for all aspects of radiation protection including protecting their citizens from off site releases of radioactive materials. States (agreement) function as co-regulators and often enforce federal regulations within their boundaries, including NRC regulations and U.S Department of Transportation Regulations. State programs and personnel are often have long standing relationships and are intimately familiar with local conditions, infrastructure, politics and issues. As such, early and upfront involvement of state programs may help facilitate any licensing issues for a regional storage site.

2. *Outstanding issues related to transportation to a regional storage facility* – nearly two decades of work has gone into transportation planning for shipments to a national repository under the DOE. For many, it is unclear what components and commitments from that period will remain intact and to what degree we will be reinventing the wheel for shipments to a regional storage facility. Some important considerations for shipment to a regional SNF site include:

- a. Regulating shipments to a regional facility as NRC shipments, including those aspects that relate to safeguards, security, routing and advance notification.
- b. Maintaining DOE's commitment to a "mostly rail" transport scenario.
- c. Maintaining a funding mechanism for state programs impacted by shipments, including support for operational activities (inspections) and not just training and equipment.
- d. Development of a national rail inspection standard analogous to the CVSA north American standard for highway inspections.

3. *Lessons learned from 1000 shipments* – because of our geographic location the existing spent nuclear storage facility at G.E Morris, the state of Illinois has significant experience with dealing with SNF transportation and storage issues. To date we have conducted safety inspections and provided security escorts for roughly 1000 shipments, including over 80 rail movements. However, there has not been a major rail campaign across the U.S in nearly two decades and with the changes in security requirements in the post 9-11 world along with the routing, inspection and general transportation planning and coordination, we would estimate it could take 7 to 9 years to develop a viable nationwide transportation program that would have widespread public acceptance and confidence.