



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Nuclear Energy

Blue Ribbon Commission Report and Transportation Program

Corinne Macaluso

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Blue Ribbon Commission & Report

- Formed at the direction of the President to Secretary Chu and included leading experts.
- Purpose to conduct a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle; i.e., recycle before storage and permanent disposal.
- Detailed analysis, with eight major recommendations; also recommended near-term actions.



Scope of Commission's Recommendation and Internal Assessment

1. A new, consent-based approach to siting future nuclear waste management facilities.
2. A new organization dedicated solely to implementing the waste management program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed.
3. Access to the funds nuclear utility ratepayers are providing for the purpose of nuclear waste management.
4. Prompt efforts to develop one or more geologic disposal facilities.
5. Prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities.
6. 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.
7. Support for continued U.S. innovation in nuclear energy technology and for workforce development.
8. Active U.S. leadership in international efforts to address safety, waste management, non-proliferation, and security concerns.

Scope of DOE
Management and
Disposition Working
Group (MDWG)

To Be Addressed
Separately from MDTF



The Administration's Response to the BRC's Recommendations

- Commission's work was Administration's key mechanism for major review of national strategy to address back-end of fuel cycle.
- The stature of Commission members and the quality of their report assures that their recommendations are taken seriously.
- An internal DOE review is now underway and an Administration strategy and action plan will be delivered to Congress no later than the end of July.



Assessment Chartered and Organized by DOE Leadership

- Review process approved by the Secretary and Deputy and broadly engages the Department's leadership.
- NE's Assistant Secretary is the assessment lead for strategy development.
- While process is internal, it benefits from extensive stakeholder communication with the Commission
 - Thousands of comments received by Commission
 - Analysis of comments is important element of internal review process

Additional Factors

- New Administration strategy must be addressed in partnership with Congress; statutory changes will be required
- Will implement elements of the new strategy that are within Administration's statutory authorities
- Near-term recommendations align with work underway in FY 2012 and proposed for FY 2013



Work Under Existing Authorities

(FY 2012 & PB for FY 2013)

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- Collect historical data on U.S. and international siting efforts.
 - Procedures and regulations for providing technical assistance and funds (pursuant to section 180 (c) of the NWPA)
 - Ground work for consolidated interim storage if part of system
 - Revisit the recommendations of the 2006 National Academy report on transportation; initiate work on standardized cask systems
 - Conduct R&D
 - On generic geological media
 - On potential degradation mechanisms in long-term dry cask storage
 - On alternative fuel cycles



Transportation – Related Recommendations

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- “Initiate Prompt Efforts to Build Transportation Capability”

 - Five main issue areas:
 - Planning and Institutional

 - Logistics Issues

 - Regulatory and Legislative Considerations

 - Transportation Safety and Security

 - Research and Development

Transportation: Planning and Institutional

- Fund State Regional Groups to evaluate routes, review infrastructure near shutdown reactors with FRA, complete Section 180(c) policy and procedures, develop communication materials, and convene working groups
- Consult with Native American Tribes per the DOE Tribal Policy
- Evaluate public perception about UNF transport issues to assess communication needs/preferences

Transportation: Logistics Issues

- Develop integrated plan to remove UNF from shutdown Plants within six years of authorization
- Identify needed equipment for shipment and start acquisition
- Complete evaluations of standardized cask/canister systems for commercial UNF

Transportation: Safety and Security

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- Establish independent expert review panel to examine transportation security issues

 - Update the proposed Package Performance Study design in collaboration with NRC

 - Include in the PPS design:
 - a study of public concerns about cask safety
 - whether a PPS demonstration would be effective in providing public assurances
 - how to effectively communicate test results

Questions?