Blue Ribbon Commission Report and Transportation Program

Corinne Macaluso

National Transportation Stakeholders Forum Knoxville, Tennessee May 16, 2012



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 polices 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

Nuclear Energy

- 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 <u>end of July</u>.



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)

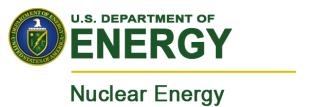
- Collect historical data on U.S. and international siting efforts.
- Procedures and regulations for providing technical assistance and funds (pursuant to section 180 (c) of the NWPA)
- Ground work for consolidated interim storage if part of system
- Revisit the recommendations of the 2006 National Academy 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



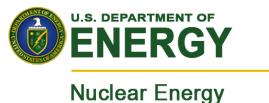
Transportation – Related Recommendations

- "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

MAY 2012 10



Transportation: Safety and Security

- ■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

MAY 2012 11



Nuclear Energy

Questions?

MAY 2012 12