

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2011-008

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY URGE QUICK
4 CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON
5 COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE.
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7 WHEREAS, nuclear utility ratepayers throughout the United States have
8 contributed more than \$30 billion in fees and interest, as required under the
9 Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, for the sole purpose of removing
10 used nuclear fuel from commercial reactor sites and defense-related high-
11 level radioactive waste from Department of Defense facilities; and
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13 WHEREAS, the federal government failed to satisfy the statutory
14 requirements of the NWPA to begin accepting used fuel for disposal starting
15 in 1998 and has continued to fail to meet the terms of its contracts with
16 United States nuclear plant operators; and
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18 WHEREAS, the 104 operating United States commercial reactors have
19 accumulated some 77,000 metric tons of used nuclear fuel; and
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21 WHEREAS, the federal administration has terminated and Congress has
22 ceased funding of all activities related to the license review or further
23 development of a permanent central disposal repository at the Yucca Mountain
24 site in Nevada, which has been the federal government's only intended
25 destination for used fuel and defense-related waste; and
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27 WHEREAS, the states of South Carolina and Washington, various
28 communities, and other parties remain involved in lawsuits attempting to
29 compel the federal government to meet its obligations under the NWPA; and
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31 WHEREAS, in January 2010, the President of the United States appointed
32 a Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future composed of
33 distinguished American scientists and nuclear policymakers to review various
34 alternative options and make recommendations for future safe management of
35 used United States commercial nuclear fuel and defense waste; and
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1 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future has
2 recommended an integrated nuclear fuel management program incorporating the
3 following: (1) Development of one (1) or more Nuclear Regulatory Commission-
4 licensed private or government-owned centralized interim storage facilities
5 in communities in states that would willingly host such facilities; (2)
6 Continued public and private sector research, development, and deployment of
7 used fuel and nuclear waste recycling technologies to close the nuclear fuel
8 cycle in a safe, environmentally responsible, proliferation-resistant, and
9 economically viable process; and (3) Assured access by the nuclear waste
10 program to revenues generated by consumers' continued payments and to
11 existing balances in the Nuclear Waste Fund,

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13 NOW THEREFORE,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
15 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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17 THAT the Interim Joint Committee on Energy urges the Administration and
18 the United States Congress to:

19 (a) Adopt legislation enabling the construction of one (1) or more
20 centralized interim fuel storage facilities through directives to the United
21 States Department of Energy and through incentives to interested communities
22 funded through access to the accumulated Nuclear Waste Fund;

23 (b) Recognize there are willing host communities and states that are
24 ready to voluntarily accept used fuel and defense waste shipments;

25 (c) Assure access by the nuclear waste management program to the
26 revenues generated by consumers' continuing fee payments and to the
27 significant balance in the Nuclear Waste Fund; and

28 (d) Enable one (1) or more Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed
29 private interim storage facilities to meet this long-ignored public policy
30 need.

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy of this
33 resolution shall be transmitted to the following:

34 (a) The President of the United States;

35 (b) The President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate;

36 (c) The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and

1 (d) Each member of the Arkansas congressional delegation.

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3 Respectfully submitted,

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7 Representative John Burriss

8 District 85

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10 Respectfully submitted,

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14 Representative Andrea Lea

15 District 68

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20 By: JLL/JLL

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