



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

**Nuclear Energy**

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## **Update: The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future**

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U.S. Department of Energy**

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# Used Nuclear Fuel/High-Level Waste

- **The President and Secretary Chu have made it clear that Yucca Mountain is not a workable option and “off the table.”**
  
- **Civilian nuclear power**
  - If no new nuclear plants are constructed in the U.S.
    - *About 100,000 metric tons of used nuclear fuel will be produced by 2050*
  - If the U.S. maintains 20% of electricity generation with nuclear
    - *About 275,000 metric tons of used nuclear fuel will be produced by 2050*
  - Any increase above 20% will result in additional used fuel production
  
- **Defense used nuclear fuel and high-level waste**
  
- **Navy spent nuclear fuel**



- **The President directed the Secretary to establish the *Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future***
  
- **Conduct a comprehensive review of the back-end of the fuel cycle**
  
- **Commission is made up of 15 members with wide range of expertise and experience in nuclear issues, including:**
  - Scientists
  - Industry and labor representatives
  - Respected former elected officials



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# Commissioners

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- **Congressman Lee Hamilton, Co-Chair**
- **General Brent Scowcroft, Co-Chair**
- **Mark Ayers, President, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO**
- **Vicky Bailey, Former Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**
- **Albert Carnesale, Chancellor Emeritus and Professor, UCLA**
- **Pete V. Domenici, former U.S. Senator, Senior Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center**
- **Susan Eisenhower, President, Eisenhower Group, Inc.**
- **Chuck Hagel, former U.S. Senator, Distinguished Professor, Georgetown University**
- **Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute**
- **Allison Macfarlane, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University**
- **Richard A. Meserve, President, Carnegie Institution for Science, and former Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**
- **Ernie Moniz, Professor of Physics and Cecil & Ida Green Distinguished Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
- **Per Peterson, Professor and Chair, Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California - Berkeley**
- **John Rowe, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Exelon Corporation**
- **Phil Sharp, former Congressman and President, Resources for the Future**



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### ■ Reports

- Draft report 18 months from date of Presidential memorandum
  - *July 29, 2011*
- Final report 24 months from date of Presidential memorandum
  - *January 29, 2012*

### ■ Objective and scope

- Evaluation of existing technologies and R&D programs
  - *cost, safety, resource utilization and sustainability*
  - *promotion of nuclear nonproliferation and counter-terrorism goals*
- Options for:
  - *Safe storage*
  - *Permanent disposal*
  - *Legal and commercial arrangements for management of used nuclear fuel*
  - *Decision-making processes*
  - *Open and transparent decisions*

### ■ Advice and recommendations on

- Policy and management of used nuclear fuel
- Changes in law
- Fees currently being charged (Nuclear Waste Fee and Fund)



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# Reactor and Fuel Cycle Technology Subcommittee

## ■ Membership

- Pete Domenici – Co-Chairman
- Per Peterson – Co-Chairman
- Al Carnesale
- Susan Eisenhower
- Allison Macfarlane
- Richard Meserve
- Ernie Moniz
- Phil Sharp

## ■ Will address the question:

- “Do technical alternatives to today’s once-through fuel cycle offer sufficient promise to warrant serious consideration and R&D investment, and do these technologies hold significant potential to influence the way in which used fuel is stored and disposed?”



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# Transportation and Storage Subcommittee

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## ■ Membership

- Richard Meserve – Co-Chairman
- Phil Sharp – Co-Chairman
- Mark Ayers
- Vicky Bailey
- Al Carnesale
- Pete Domenici
- Ernie Moniz
- John Rowe

## ■ Will address the question:

- “Should the US change the way in which it is storing used nuclear fuel and high level waste while one or more final disposal locations are established?”



### ■ Membership

- Chuck Hagel – Co-Chairman
- Jonathan Lash – Co-Chairman
- Mark Ayers
- Vicky Bailey
- Susan Eisenhower
- Allison Macfarlane
- Per Peterson
- John Rowe

### ■ Will address the question:

- “How can the U.S. go about establishing one or more disposal sites for high-level nuclear wastes in a manner that is technically, politically and socially acceptable?”



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### ■ Full Commission

- Meetings
  - *March 25-26; Washington, DC*
  - *May 25-26; Washington, DC*
  - *July 14-15; Richland, WA*
  - *September 21-22; Washington, DC*
  - *November 15-16; TBD*
- Public Teleconferences (potential)
  - *October 19*
  - *December 14*

### ■ Subcommittees

- Disposal
  - *July 7; Washington, DC*
  - *September 1; Washington, DC*
  - *November 4; Washington, DC*
- Reactor and Fuel Cycle Technology
  - *July 12-13; Idaho Falls, ID*
  - *August 30-31; Washington, DC*
  - *October 12-13; Washington, DC*
- Transportation and Storage
  - *August 10; Wiscasset, ME*
  - *August 19; Washington, DC*
  - *September 23; Washington, DC*
  - *November 2-3; Chicago, IL*