

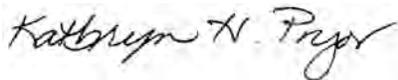
HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY COMMENT ON THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE

The Health Physics Society commends the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (the BRC) for undertaking the difficult task of devising a new strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and associated high-level waste. This task is made all the more difficult by the myriad of legal, political, and public-policy issues that have arisen since the enactment of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The Health Physics Societyⁱ is a professional society devoted to excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety, including understanding, evaluating, and controlling the potential risks from radiation commensurate with the beneficial uses of radiation, and promoting research in radiation safety.

In consideration of this mission, the Health Physics Society supports those key elements of the strategy proposed in the January 2012 report of the BRC that pertain to ensuring the radiation safety of workers and the public and promoting research in radiation safety , specifically:

- Prompt efforts to develop one or more geologic disposal facilities (key element #4).
- Prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities (key element #5).
- 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 (key element #6).
- Support for continued U.S. innovation in technology and practices, accompanied by workforce development, that enable the safety of nuclear energy technology (key element #7).
- Active U.S. leadership in international efforts to address safety, waste management, non-proliferation, and security concerns (key element #8).

The Health Physics Society further believes that the recommendations in the BRC's report to implement these key elements will help assure protection of workers and the public and are consistent with the current Health Physics Society Position Statement (PS022-1), *Managing Spent Nuclear Fuel*, June 2007 (http://hps.org/documents/managing_spent_fuel_ps022-1.pdf).



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ⁱ The Health Physics Society is a nonprofit scientific professional organization whose mission is to promote the practice of radiation safety. Since its formation in 1956, the Society has grown to approximately 5,000 scientists, physicians, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals representing academia, industry, government, national laboratories, the department of defense, and other organizations. Society activities include encouraging research in radiation science, developing standards, and disseminating radiation safety information. Society members are involved in understanding, evaluating, and controlling the potential risks from radiation relative to the benefits. Official position statements are prepared and adopted in accordance with standard policies and procedures of the Society.