

NUCLEAR WASTE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the federal government's program to manage and dispose of spent fuel from U.S. nuclear power plants is seriously behind schedule, and failure to take appropriate action to enable the federal government to take title to and possession of this material in a timely and efficient way could jeopardize continued operation of the 109 U.S. nuclear plants, representing 20% of our national electric supply; and,

WHEREAS, 53% of New England's power is from nuclear plant generation, which is the highest percentage for any region in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, New England's capability to meet the Clean Air Act requirements is highly dependent upon continued availability of our nuclear plants; and,

WHEREAS, continued operation of our nuclear plants reduces New England's dependence on the importation of foreign oil; and,

WHEREAS, the storage of spent fuel at Yankee Rowe, which is being decommissioned, is now costing the New England ratepayers \$10 million annually; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy is contractually required to begin to take title to and possession of spent fuel on January 31, 1998; and,

WHEREAS, an integrated spent fuel management system is required which includes at least four essential components:

- A central facility for interim storage until a permanent repository is ready;
- A transportation infrastructure for the transfer of spent fuel that is expeditiously established;
- A waste packaging system that integrates all elements of the program;
- A central repository for permanent deep geological disposal; and

WHEREAS, more than \$9.6 billion has been paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund, of which, close to \$900 million has been paid by the ratepayers of New England, and current congressional budget restraints preclude proper use of the funds consistent with schedule requirements; and,

WHEREAS, numerous bills to rectify the nuclear waste storage problem have been introduced in this 104th session of the United States Congress;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS, assembled this 29th day of March, 1995 at Durham, New Hampshire, do hereby urge the New England congressional delegations to take a leadership role in insuring that the financial, energy, and environmental interests of the ratepayers of New England are protected by working to enact federal legislation that:

- Reaffirms DOE is responsible to accept and remove spent fuel from reactor sites beginning not later than January 31, 1998.
- Designates one interim storage site and eliminates the link between the permanent repository and the interim site.
- Establishes milestones for DOE to meet its obligation for acceptance of the spent fuel by the 1998 date.
- Increases rates of future spent fuel acceptance to meet contractual commitments and accommodate the needs of plants, such as Yankee Rowe, that have been prematurely closed.
- Encourages continuation of private efforts to locate and site interim storage facilities.
- Exempts the Nuclear Waste Fund from budgetary restrictions, but continues the congressional appropriation of these funds.
- Makes the unobligated balance of the Nuclear Waste Fund available, as needed, for nuclear waste program activities.
- Ensures a fair and timely means of charging producers of nuclear waste for the reasonable costs of nuclear waste transport and disposal, while ensuring that a fair share of Department of Defense nuclear waste costs are paid independently of the Nuclear Waste Fund, and involving ratepayer input in determining the DOD's portion of the program costs.
- Encourages greater private sector involvement in appropriate program aspects.
- Moves the Office of Civilian and Radioactive Nuclear Waste program out of DOE and locates it in a federally chartered corporation, if DOE does not meet congressional goals and milestones by June 30, 1997.
- Expedites siting, routing, and environmental impact statements consistent with schedule requirements through specific direction to U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

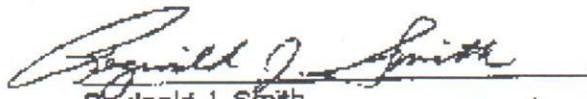
Dated this 29th day of March, 1995.

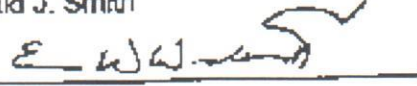
SIGNED BY THE NEW ENGLAND COMMISSIONERS THIS 29TH DAY OF MARCH, 1995:





Evan W. Woollacott, President
New England Conference
of Public Utility Commissioners

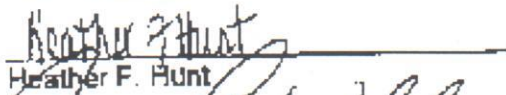
Nuclear Waste Resolution dated March 29, 1955, adopted this 29th day of March, 1995.

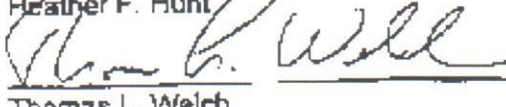
 , Chairman, Connecticut
Reginald J. Smith

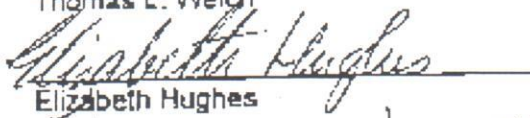
 , Vice-Chairman, Connecticut
Evan W. Woollacott

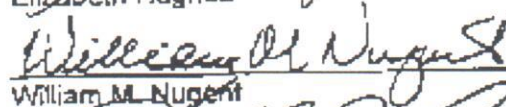
 , Commissioner, Connecticut
Michael J. Kenney

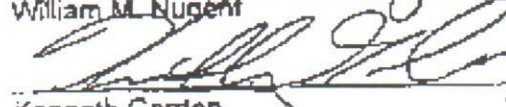
 , Commissioner, Connecticut
Thomas M. Benedict


 , Commissioner, Connecticut
Heather F. Hunt

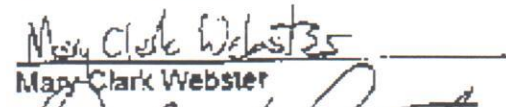
 , Chairman, Maine
Thomas L. Welch

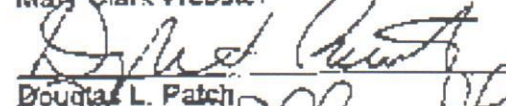
 , Commissioner, Maine
Elizabeth Hughes


 , Commissioner, Maine
William M. Nugent


 , Chairman, Massachusetts
Kenneth Gordon

 , Commissioner, Massachusetts
Janet Gail Besser

 , Commissioner, Massachusetts
Mary Clark Webster

 , Chairman, New Hampshire
Douglas L. Patch

 , Commissioner, New Hampshire
Bruce B. Ellsworth

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Kate F. Racine Commissioner, Rhode Island
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Richard H. Cowart Chairman, Vermont
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Leonard U. Wilson Commissioner, Vermont
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Richard P. Sedano Commissioner of Public Service, Vermont
Richard P. Sedano