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Dr. Richard A. Meserve
The Honorable Phil Sharp
Co-Chairs, Transportation and Storage Subcommittee
Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20585

Dear Co-Chairs Meserve and Sharp;

I have taken the opportunity to review the recently published, "What We Heard," document and believe that you and your staff have captured well the overarching themes that were presented with one outstanding exception. I and my fellow Decommissioning Plant Coalition members are concerned that the document did not capture our belief that, as part of an integrated strategy of spent fuel management, spent nuclear fuel and GTCC waste from permanently shut-down facilities be accepted and shipped to a centralized interim storage facility on a **priority** basis as part of a demonstration of the nation's ability to manage this material.

We are not alone in that belief. During the Subcommittee's meeting in Wiscasset, Maine, this past August you heard this message about assigning such priority from many organizations and individuals that participated, including:

- Former State Sen. Marge Kilkelley (who also chairs the Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel),
- Hugh Curley (Chair of the Connecticut Yankee Fuel Storage Advisory Committee)
- John Kerry representing the Governor of Maine,
- Brian Whitney on behalf of U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe,
- Bill Card representing U.S. Sen. Susan Collins,
- John Graham on behalf of U.S. Rep. Michael Michaud, and
- Nick Battista of U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree's staff.
- Former State Senator Deb Simpson who also chaired the High Level Waste Working Group of the National Council of State Legislators,

- John Shea of the New England Governors Conference who recounted the position of all the Governors in their earlier letter to Secretary Chu,
- Brian O'Connell of the National Association of State Regulatory Commissioners,

At your meeting in Chicago last November, John Herron, President, CEO and CNO of Entergy Nuclear and representing DPC member Big Rock Point, advocated such treatment. At that same meeting, Dr. Kevin Crowley of the National Research Council advocated a pilot program of removing older fuel from decommissioned sites first to central interim storage. There have also been members of Congress who have weighed in on a bi-partisan basis about the importance of promptly removing these materials from our sites:

- An April 26, 2010 letter from Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) to the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC).
- An April 12, 2010 letter to the Co-Chairs of the BRC from Members of the U.S. House of Representatives having DPC facilities in their districts/states.
- A September 14 letter from the U.S. Senators from Connecticut to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
- A July 10, 2009 letter to Secretary Chu from the U.S. Senators from Massachusetts.
- A March 24 letter from the U.S. Members of the House that have DPC facilities in their districts/states to the President.
- A January 15, 2009 letter to then-President-elect Obama from 5 U.S. Senators who have DPC facilities in their states.

Last fall, the Governor of Connecticut wrote to you as well.

There are many other organizations on all sides of the nuclear issue that have echoed this point – several with direct testimony to the BRC, including the following:

- the U.S.Department of Energy,
- the National Resources Defense Council,
- the Nuclear Energy Institute,
- the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition,
- the New England Council, among others.

I especially call your attention to the recommendations contained in a recent report of an interdisciplinary study group at MIT, "Key Issues Associated with Interim Storage of Used Nuclear Fuel", MIT Center for Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems. I are also enclosing (electronically) a summary of statements during the past several years that bear directly on the importance of removing DPC fuel and GTCC on a priority basis.

I appreciate the hard work that you are doing on the issue of spent fuel storage and transportation and recognize that your identification of the basic issue is, itself, recognition of its importance. I do believe that your Subcommittee's reflections upon, "What We Heard," must include the priority on moving this material from our sites that you have heard from so many and diverse voices. The DPC further urges that the BRC include this position in its draft and final recommendations.

I would be pleased to provide any of the documents I have referenced and am of course always available to discuss these matters with you.

Sincerely,

Wayne Norton
President & CEO, Connecticut Yankee and Yankee Rowe
CNO, Maine Yankee
Chairman, Decommissioning Plant Coalition