

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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From: Marco De Leon [<mailto:MDeLeon@ushcc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 1:56 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Written Public Comments for NRC Waste Confidence Rulemaking

Greetings,

Please see the attached electronic copy of comments from the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the NRC Waste Confidence Rulemaking.

Thank you,
Marco

Marco I. De Leon
Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy
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December 20, 2013

ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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Re: Written Public Comments for NRC Waste Confidence Rulemaking

Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff,

My name is Javier Palomarez and I serve as President and CEO of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). The USHCC represents the interests of nearly 3.2 million Hispanic owned businesses that combined, contribute in excess of \$468 billion to the American economy. We also serve as the umbrella organization for more than 200 local Hispanic chambers and business associations nationwide, and work closely with 212 corporate partners.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the USHCC on the important topic of Waste Confidence.

The USHCC is a member of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition's Business, Labor and Minority Steering Committee and strongly believes that nuclear energy is an important part of our national energy portfolio.

Not only do we agree with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts on the Waste Confidence rulemaking, but we also agree that nuclear energy is critical to our nation's energy production and economic output.

On average, a nuclear energy facility can generate nearly \$500 million in annual economic output, including more than \$35 million in labor income. Each year, it pays about \$67 million in federal taxes and nearly \$16 million in state and local taxes.

In addition, one nuclear energy facility creates 1,400 to 1,800 high-paying jobs during construction, with peak employment estimated as high as 3,500 jobs during that period, yielding 400 to 700 jobs during the operation of the facility. These are jobs that cannot be shipped overseas.

While these facts show just why nuclear energy is a vital part of our electricity portfolio and economy, we also understand that there is a need to address the transportation, storage and disposal of used nuclear fuel.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been transparent throughout its processes and reiterated on many occasions the safety and security of used nuclear fuel management in post-Fukushima. The NRC has also addressed common misconceptions and clarified that used nuclear fuel *is* well-protected from potential natural events and terrorist attacks – all



made possible by a combination of strategic design and construction, multiple safety systems, ongoing surveillance and inspection, and state-of-the-art security measures.

The United States was the first country to develop commercial nuclear power plants, and we now have the largest nuclear program in the world with 100 reactors. But we are at risk of losing our competitive edge.

Of all energy sources, nuclear energy is the most eco-efficient of all, as it produces the most electricity in relation to its minimal environmental impact. Nuclear power plants produce no controlled air pollutants or greenhouse gases and produces nearly two-thirds of all carbon-free electricity in the U.S.

We urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue its thoughtful and robust oversight of commercial nuclear energy facilities – the operation of existing plants, licensing new reactors, renewing the operating licenses of existing reactors, and the management, transportation and disposal of used nuclear fuel.

Thank you to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for hosting these public meetings and for allowing our organization the opportunity to weigh in on such an important discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Javier Palomarez
President & CEO
USHCC