

WASTE DISPOSAL

Chu names 15 members to nuclear waste commission

ENERGY SECRETARY STEVEN Chu on January 29 announced the formation of the Obama administration's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which will provide recommendations for the United States to develop a strategy for managing spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. The commission is being cochaired by former congressman Lee Hamilton (D., Ind.) and former national security advisor Brent Scowcroft.

"Nuclear energy provides clean, safe, reliable power and has an important role to play as we build a low-carbon future," Chu said. "The administration is committed to promoting nuclear power in the United States and developing a safe, long-term solution for the management of used nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. The work of the Blue Ribbon Commission will be invaluable to this process. I want to thank Congressman Hamilton and General Scowcroft for leading the commission, and I look forward to receiving their recommendations."

In a January 29 memorandum to Chu, President Barack Obama commented that the commission should conduct a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including all alternatives for the storage, processing, and disposal of civilian and defense spent fuel and nuclear waste. The review, according to the memo, should include "an evaluation of advanced fuel cycle technologies that would optimize energy recovery, resource utilization, and the minimization of materials derived from nuclear activities in a manner consistent with U.S. nonproliferation goals."

Obama's message, said in another way, means that the United States could turn to reprocessing and recycling, which are al-

A blue ribbon commission has been established to provide recommendations on managing spent fuel and nuclear waste.

ready being done successfully in other parts of the world, namely in France and the United Kingdom. The United States banned reprocessing under President Jimmy Carter in the 1970s.

More than 70 000 tons of spent fuel is currently being stored at various locations around the United States. In light of the Obama administration's decision not to proceed with the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, the Blue Ribbon Commission has been directed to provide advice and make recommendations on issues that include alternatives for the storage, processing, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. The commission will produce an interim report within 18 months and a final report within 24 months.

The 15-member commission includes scientists, industry representatives, and former elected officials with a range of expertise and experience in nuclear issues. The members are as follows:

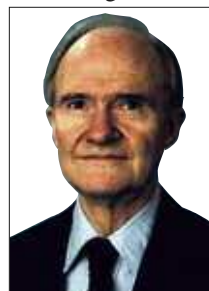
■ Lee Hamilton, cochair. Hamilton represented Indiana's 9th congressional district from January 1965 to January 1999. During his time in Congress, he served as the ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and chaired the Permanent Select Committee on Intelli-



Hamilton

gence. He is currently president and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He is a member of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council and previously served as vice chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission).

■ Brent Scowcroft, cochair. Scowcroft is president of the Scowcroft Group, an international business advisory firm. He served as the national security advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush. From 1982 to 1989, he was vice chairman of Kissinger Associates, an international consulting firm. Scowcroft served in the



Scowcroft

military for 29 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant general after serving as the deputy national security advisor. Out of uniform, he continued in a public policy capacity by serving on the President's Advisory Committee on Arms Control, the Commission on Strategic Forces, and the President's Special Review Board, also known as the Tower Commission.

■ Mark Ayers, president, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

■ Vicky Bailey, former commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; former commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; and former Department of Energy assistant secretary for Policy and International Affairs.

■ Albert Carnesale, chancellor emeritus and professor, University of California at Los Angeles.

■ Pete V. Domenici, senior fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center, and former U.S. senator (R., N.M.)

■ Susan Eisenhower, president, the Eisenhower Group.

■ Chuck Hagel, former U.S. senator (R., Nebr.).

■ Jonathan Lash, president, World Resources Institute.

■ Allison Macfarlane, associate professor of environmental science and policy, George Mason University.

■ Richard Meserve, president, Carnegie Institution for Science, and former chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

■ Ernie Moniz, professor of physics and Cecil and Ida Green distinguished professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

■ Per Peterson, professor and chair, Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California at Berkeley (ANS member).

■ John Rowe, chairman and chief executive officer, Exelon Corporation (ANS member).

■ Phil Sharp, president, Resources for the Future.
