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Advanced Nuclear Reactor Working Group Minutes

Wednesday, February 28th, 2024.

Commissioner Glotfelty call the meeting to order at 3:05pm. Approximately twenty-five people attended in-person at the ERCOT HQ meeting room, with sixty-five people joining the meeting on Teams.

Agenda

1. *Introduction/welcome remarks (Jimmy Glotfelty)*
2. *Presentation and Q&A with Maria Korsnick, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute.*
 - a. At state legislatures across the US, over 200 bills have been considered since 2023 relating to nuclear, with over 100 already introduced this year alone.
 - b. NEI polled Chief Nuclear Officers at our member utilities. Together, they are expecting to add more than 100 gigawatts of nuclear power to the grid — the bulk of that coming online by 2050.
 - c. Think about these steps to encourage early movers:
 - i. Risk reduction piece (for being the first few); and
 - ii. Cost overrun piece (cost overrun insurance).
 - d. How is Congress addressing the long delay in permitting? Yesterday, House lawmakers passed bipartisan federal legislation to streamline the deployment of next generation nuclear technologies by enabling more predictable and efficient licensing and regulation through the NRC. The bill, known as the Atomic Energy Advancement Act, also expands the Price-Anderson Act by 40 years. Price-Anderson serves as a framework for valid public liability claims, codifying regulations while encouraging private-sector investment. All of this follows the “Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act” (ADVANCE Act) which passed the Senate last year.

- e. They shared a slide on projected demand nationally.
- f. DOE has published a paper looking at coal sites. Overall conclusion is that 80% of the recently retired and operating coal sites in the US are suitable for plant siting.

QUESTION FOR NEI:

Is there prevailing wisdom on a REC type program? Proposed changing name from REC to “clean energy credit”. The ITC and PTC are technology neutral and apply to nuclear. Potentially overlaying the federal and state energy credits.

- 3. *Further discussion on national effort/issues (post NARUC meetings last weekend in DC)*
 - a. Jimmy stated that Maria did such a thorough job that the efforts discussed at NARUC were all covered.
- 4. *Updates from Subcommittee Chairs* – About thirty issues across all the subcommittees are being studied in smaller subgroups. Each Subcommittee gave a brief update.
 - a. State and Federal Regulatory/ERCOT Market Design
 - i. Pablo Vegas updated that they met earlier this morning and talked through three concepts: a price floor, segmentation, and an Advanced Nuclear Energy Credit Program.
 - b. Market Demand and End User
 - i. Mike Kotara led the update and reported from earlier this afternoon.
 - ii. *Dow and X Energy showed a presentation on their SMR technology planned for Seadrift, and a run of the ClearPath model.*
 - iii. Nine key issues identified.
 - iv. Next meeting virtual on March 13.
 - v. Next in person meeting will have a guest speaker.
 - c. Higher Ed and R&D
 - i. Derek Haas briefly shared that they have eleven key issues identified.

- d. Development and Manufacturing
 - i. Stephanie Matthews shared that there is subgroup talking about Education.
 - 1. Education component (K-16)
 - 2. Baseline communication effort
- 5. *General Working Group Discussion*
 - a. *Upcoming Events:*
 - i. USNIC, (Houston) April 15-17
 - ii. Nuclear TX SXSW (Austin) March 10, 5-9pm
 - iii. CERA Week (Houston) March 18-21
 - iv. UT Energy Week (Austin) March 26-29
- 6. *Next Steps – including timelines and expectations of the issue subgroups.*
 - a. Working subgroups have about 4-6 weeks working independently on these issues with the goal of completion, including recommendations, by April 30.
 - b. Next meeting is tentatively March 13.
- 7. *Public comment.*

An upcoming event at South by Southwest was mentioned and the group invited. Stephanie with TAB shared that this is on their rooftop. Jimmy offered to share the invitation with our email group. Jimmy reiterated he had mentioned three other upcoming nuclear happenings, because 'nuclear is happening'.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21pm.