



For Immediate Release
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AHUG Supports Nuclear Fuel Working Group Recommendations

April 23, 2020, Washington—The Ad Hoc Utilities Group (AHUG) welcomes the Nuclear Fuel Working Group (NFWG) recommendations to establish a Strategic Uranium Reserve and to accelerate the U.S. funding and R&D for U.S. technology to enrich uranium. AHUG also supports the NFWG’s strategy to minimize commercial fleet vulnerabilities. Maintaining economic viability of U.S. nuclear reactors is critical to sustaining the current fleet and preserving the U.S. nuclear industry’s 100,000 workers, which contributes \$60 billion annually to GDP and nearly \$10 billion annually in federal tax revenues and \$2.2 billion in state tax revenues.

“AHUG appreciates President Trump’s continued support for the U.S. nuclear industry and the Administration’s effort to identify a specific roadmap to increase U.S. nuclear fuel cycle capabilities,” said AHUG spokesperson David Tamasi. “As the U.S. develops domestic enrichment capability, maintaining diversity of supply for U.S. nuclear reactors will remain necessary to power our nation’s homes and businesses and to achieve our long-term defense policy goals.”

The U.S. currently does not have domestic origin uranium enrichment technology, risking national security. Therefore increasing U.S. enrichment using U.S. technology to satisfy Department of Defense (DOD) requirements for maintaining effective naval propulsion and other military capabilities is a critical step forward.

Today, the majority of the U.S. uranium comes from U.S., Canadian, and Australian suppliers combined; and zero uranium comes from China. Russia is capped at providing 20 percent of U.S. enrichment needs under a longstanding agreement, an extension of which is currently being negotiated. Near term supply from Russia could not be replaced as the global enrichment market has very little uncommitted supply and limited ability to expand in the near to mid-term.

“The U.S. nuclear industry does not import any Chinese uranium nor does it have any current plans to do so,” Tamasi said. “We look forward to continuing to work with President Trump and his administration to ensure that a robust U.S. nuclear energy industry continues to serve the American people.”

The U.S. nuclear industry operates 96 nuclear reactors in 29 states. Industry’s economics continue to be fragile even before COVID-19. For example, 10 reactors in the U.S. have prematurely retired, leading to thousands of lost jobs. A single nuclear plant accounts for 700-1,000 jobs, which are typically located in many rural communities.

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About The Ad Hoc Utilities Group (AHUG)

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