

PROPOSED POLICY POSITION

2. SUPPORTING CONTINUED NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECT FINANCING AT OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

BACKGROUND

The federally funded (\$122 million over five years) U.S. Department of Energy nuclear energy innovation hub—the Simulation and Modeling Hub in Nuclear Engineering—establishing the Consortium for Advanced Simulation of Light Water Reactors (CASL) is based at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. CASL will be working on developing computer models in order to improve safety, and reduce capital and operating costs per unit of energy, extending the lifetime of the currently existing nuclear fleet and reducing nuclear waste volume generated by enabling higher fuel burnups. The CASL virtual reactor also will be used to accelerate the development of next-generation reactor designs; particularly advanced nuclear fuel technologies and structural materials within the reactor core. Various institutions of higher learning throughout the Southern states, including North Carolina State University, University of Florida, Florida State University, The University of Tennessee and Texas A&M University are partners in the CASL consortium.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments endorses this commitment by the U.S. Department of Energy to support this effort to enhance national capabilities in the nuclear arena. The development of this hub and consortium at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee will continue to keep the Southern states at the forefront of developments in nuclear technology. The Southern Legislative Conference requests that a copy of this policy position be forwarded to the Southern Congressional delegation and to the secretary of the U. S. Department of Energy.