

## OPENING STATEMENT

THE HONORABLE ED PASTOR  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request for  
the Office of Nuclear Energy  
March 23, 2010

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Good afternoon. We have before us today Dr. Warren “Pete” Miller, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. This is his first time before the Subcommittee. He brings impressive experience to this job and we look forward to working with him. He will be presenting the President’s fiscal year 2011 budget request for the Office of Nuclear Energy.

The Office of Nuclear Energy comes to us today proposing a revised portfolio for fiscal year 2011. The President’s request includes \$824 million for Nuclear Energy, \$37 million above fiscal year 2010. However, these figures are misleading without considering that all activities related to Yucca Mountain are included in the Office of Nuclear Energy, albeit at a drastically reduced level, and the Nuclear Power 2010 program has been completed. The proposal includes research into nuclear reactor Enabling Technologies, Small Modular

Reactors, and Advanced Reactor Concepts. While we have yet to see the Nuclear Energy Strategic Plan promised to us, we hope to see it soon. This budget proposal raises questions regarding the Administration's approach to Nuclear Energy. On its face, it appears that the Administration is spreading its investment into a growing number of activities, at the possible expense of making substantial progress on anything. I look forward to your defense of the choices made.

The most significant revision proposed for the Office of Nuclear Energy is its leading role in nuclear waste disposal. The Administration's termination of Yucca has created a great deal of uncertainty when it comes to how the nation will dispose of its nuclear waste. To say the least, the Administration could have communicated these major policy decisions in a more forthright manner. Your organization, Dr. Miller, would be responsible for executing the Department's responsibility under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and informing the Blue Ribbon Commission that will be looking at alternatives for the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle. We have questions regarding how your organization would support the termination process and the path forward.

Your full written testimony will be entered into the record. After the hearing, we may have some questions for you to answer for the record—Assistant Secretary Miller, I ask that you ensure the responses, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee, are delivered in final form no later than four weeks from today.

If Members have additional questions they would like to submit for the record, please provide them to the Subcommittee by 5:00 PM tomorrow.

With those opening comments, I would like to yield to our ranking member, Mr. Frelinghuysen, for any opening comments that he would like to make.