Question 7: Governance of the Nuclear Waste Administration – Role of advisory committees
Submitter’s Name/Affiliation: Kevin Kamps/Beyond Nuclear

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The Blue Ribbon Commission recommended establishment of both a board of directors for management oversight (whose “primary role ... is not to represent all stakeholder views, but rather to carry out fiduciary responsibilities for management oversight”) and “a larger and more widely representative stakeholder advisory committee.” The draft bill responds to these recommendations, first, by establishing a Nuclear Waste Oversight Board of senior federal officials and, second, by authorizing the Administrator to establish advisory committees. Should the Oversight Board and advisory committee be combined into a single body to perform both management oversight and stakeholder representation functions? Should the focus and membership of any advisory committees be established in the legislation or left to the Administrator?

BEYOND NUCLEAR’S RESPONSE:

Whether the Oversight Board and advisory committees should be combined into a single body to perform both management oversight and stakeholder representation functions, depends on which approach would best incorporate an anti-nuclear, environmental, and public interest perspective, in a meaningful way, in decision making, openness, accountability, and transparency.

The same is true re: whether the focus and membership of any advisory committees should be established in the legislation or left to the Administrator.