



**HITACHI**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Encourages Congress to Support Development of Recycling Technology to Turn Used Nuclear Fuel into an Asset**

*As U.S. Evaluates Used Fuel Strategy, GEH Details Benefits of Proposed Advanced Recycling Center*

WILMINGTON, N.C.—June 18, 2009—As the White House and U.S. Congress create a new national strategy for managing used nuclear fuel, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) is encouraging lawmakers to support the research and development necessary for recycling nuclear fuel.

Testifying before the U.S. House of Representatives' Science & Technology Committee on Wednesday, Lisa Price, a GEH senior vice president, briefed lawmakers on GEH's proposed Advanced Recycling Center (ARC). The concept offers a timely solution to the industry's most significant public policy and environmental challenges by turning used nuclear fuel into an asset.

"The nation faces a choice today: We can continue down the same path we have been on for the last 30 years, or we can lead a transformation to a new, safer and more secure approach to nuclear energy," said Price, GEH Senior Vice President for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle and CEO of Global Nuclear Fuel LLC. "We need an approach that brings the benefits of nuclear energy to the world while reducing concerns about nuclear waste."

As the only nuclear reactor vendor that is majority-owned by a U.S. company, GEH is offering the ARC, which would put U.S. technology to work to improve economic prosperity through job creation, enhance national security, help curb greenhouse gas emissions and provide a unique opportunity to regain the historical U.S. leadership position in nuclear science and technology.

The ARC—comprised of a "PRISM" sodium-cooled reactor, combined with an electrometallurgical or dry nuclear fuel recycling facility—is being evaluated by the U.S. Department of Energy and Congress as the government considers a new long-term strategy for used nuclear fuel.

Currently, used fuel is safely stored in special pools or in dry casks installed at nuclear power plant sites, a practice adopted by the U.S. government. Approximately 95 percent of the material in used nuclear fuel from light water reactors is considered untapped energy that could be used to generate electricity in different kinds of next-generation nuclear reactors, such as GEH's "Generation IV" PRISM design.

GEH's proposed ARC system would permit much of this remaining used fuel to be recycled in the PRISM reactor to generate additional electricity for consumers. As a result, utilities also could reduce the amount of used fuel that needs to be stored on-site.

GEH's technology offers important non-proliferation advantages because it employs a different method of recycling used fuel compared to other proposed technologies or existing reprocessing systems, Price said.

The ARC model would support a sustained expansion of nuclear energy, helping address President Obama's climate-change goals because electricity generation from nuclear energy does not produce greenhouse gases. Expanding nuclear energy capacity also would create thousands of well-paying, high-quality U.S. jobs, Price said.

"Our efforts have led us to conclude that the recycling approach is the best science-based solution," Price said, noting nuclear power supplies approximately 20 percent of the country's electricity, and many other countries are pursuing nuclear power to meet their growing energy needs.

"The United States needs to strengthen its research and development to participate in and lead in this growth," Price added. "GEH supports the Committee's evaluation of recycling approaches to closing the nuclear fuel cycle as foundational to realizing the benefits of increased nuclear power production to meet our own demand for electricity."

### **About GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy**

Based in Wilmington, N.C., GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) is a world-leading provider of advanced reactors and nuclear services. Established in June 2007, GEH is a global nuclear alliance created by GE and Hitachi to serve the global nuclear industry. The nuclear alliance executes a single, strategic vision to create a broader portfolio of solutions, expanding its capabilities for new reactor and service opportunities. The alliance offers customers around the world the technological leadership required to effectively enhance reactor performance, power output and safety.

###

For more information, contact:

Ned Glascock  
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy  
+1 910 819 5729  
edward.glascock@ge.com

Howard Masto or Tom Murnane  
Masto Public Relations  
+1 518 786 6488  
howard.masto@ge.com  
tom.murnane@mastopr.com