

Meeting of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority

March 19, 2025

The meeting of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority (KNEDA) was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

I. Call to Order

Rodney Andrews, KNEDA Advisory Board Chair and Director of the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research, called the meeting to order.

II. Attendance

The following members of KNEDA were present: Rebecca Goodman, Angie Hatton, Leslie Sizemore, Aron Patrick, Amy Spiller, Christopher Perry, Don Gulley, Don Mosier, David Carroll, Cory Hicks, Elizabeth Natter, Keith Hamilton, Mark Workman, George Bray, Myron Lewis, Danny Carroll, Shelly Funke Frommeyer, Suzanne Miles, Randy Bridges, Rodney Andrews. Jansen Hammock attended on behalf of Secretary Jeff Noel.

III. Approval of Minutes

Rodney Andrews stated that the minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Keith Hamilton moved the approval and Chris Perry seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

IV. Senate Bill 179 Updates

Rodney Andrews introduced Kentucky Senator Danny Carroll to provide an update on Senate Bill 179. Senator Carroll reported that this bill has now passed the Kentucky General Assembly. Senator Carroll mentioned that he worked with the Senate President to create a grant program within the (Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development) authority itself.

Senator Carroll stated that the bill utilizes some of the funding that the legislature appropriated for setting up KNEDA and the Energy Planning & Inventory Commission (EPIC) to support this grant program. The KNEDA grant program was funded at \$10

million. In the bill, it sets up all aspects of the KNEDA grant program – how the committee is established, what types of projects will be considered, it sets a \$2 million cap on any one particular project. It is very thorough on the way it is set up.

Senator Carroll stated that it is very fitting that the grant is within the (KNEDA) board itself because of the expertise that is part of this board. I think we can make better decisions on selecting these projects.

Senator Carroll stated that when the bill made its way to the Kentucky House of Representatives something unexpected happened. Representatives from Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) recently visited Frankfort and were updating legislators on their plans. House Floor Leader Steven Rudy decided to do a committee substitute in the House which allocated \$2 million of the \$10 million to the University of Kentucky College of Engineering Paducah Campus to support a laser and photonics program at the campus. This would help solve a workforce problem for GLE if they were to come to Paducah.

Senator Carroll stated that we need to be very careful in releasing funds into this program without knowing that GLE was, in fact, coming to Kentucky.

Representative Randy Bridges was introduced to mention a resolution that he has introduced. The resolution declares nuclear energy as clean and efficient baseload energy. Representative Bridges said the intent of the resolution is to let the world know that Kentucky is open for business when it comes to nuclear production and everything associated with it.

Mayor George Bray thanked Representative Bridges for the resolution.

Cory Hicks stated that this is exactly what the expectation in creating the authority was all about. He thanked both Senator Carroll and Representative Bridges for making this happen.

Rodney Andrews said that once the KNEDA Grant Program is enacted, KNEDA will need to move forward in setting up the KNEDA Grant Program subcommittee in accordance with Senate Bill 179.

V. Long-Term Electricity Modeling

Kenya Stump, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy, provided a presentation on “Long-Term Electricity Modeling” in Kentucky.

Elizabeth Natter stated that she had several questions and comments. She mentioned that the nuclear costs are assumed to be constant at the beginning and drop thereafter, noting that is extremely contrary to what we see now. Natter urged KNEDA to be cautious when looking at such cost assumptions.

Natter stated that we use the term “nuclear ecosystem” term. Natter said she called it a nuclear system. Natter said she would not consider it an ecosystem, and the graphic misses the waste and releases that are produced at the mining, milling and reprocessing stages.

Kenya Stump noted that Natter made some really good points. She stated that nothing is perfect and we have to look at all aspects. Stump said that from the cost perspective that this was something that KNEDA could look at.

VI. Nuclear Ready Community Designation

Rodney Andrews stated that we will push this out until we meet about the KNEDA Grant Program meeting. Andrews mentioned there is some specific criteria that must be followed for this designation.

VII. Other Business

Rodney Andrews provided an update on the KNEDA Executive Director position update. He stated the position is at the UK Human Resources office now and will soon be posted. Dr. Andrews said he would provide the job listing to KNEDA members once it is posted.

Cory Hicks asked what the process would be for hiring the Executive Director? He asked whether there would be a selection committee.

Rodney Andrews said a KNEDA Executive Director review committee would be appointed to help review candidates.

VIII. Adjournment

George Bray made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Amy Spiller; the motion carried without dissent.