

## Meeting of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority

June 18, 2025

The meeting of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority (KNEDA) was held at the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, Paducah Bank Community Room.

### 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. Dr. Andrews thanked Paducah Mayor George Bray, McCracken County Judge Executive Craig Clymer and the Paducah community for hosting the inaugural in-person KNEDA meeting.

### II. Attendance

The following members of KNEDA were present: Jansen Hammock on behalf of Secretary Jeff Noel, Angie Hatton, Jamie Link, Eric Gibson, Aron Patrick, Amy Spiller, Cynthia Wiseman, Christopher Perry, Don Gulley, Don Mosier, Justin Maierhofer, 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.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Rodney Andrews stated that the minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Keith Hamilton moved the approval and Don Gulley seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

### IV. KNEDA Executive Director Update

Rodney Andrews provided an update on the KNEDA Executive Director search. He stated that the position had been posted but that we did not receive a reasonable number of applicants. He stated that the position has been re-opened for another month. Dr. Andrews encouraged KNEDA members to please reach out so we can get a deeper pool of applicants.

Mayor George Bray suggested KNEDA redistributes the position to KNEDA members to share with their networks. Dr. Andrews agreed to do that.

### V. KNEDA Bylaws Update

Rodney Andrews provided a KNEDA bylaws update. He credited Liz Natter for finding some draft bylaws that we can begin to work with. Liz has been nice in volunteering to help work with those bylaws. Dr. Andrews asked if anyone would be willing to help in working with the bylaws. Angie Hatton and Cory Hicks volunteered to assist in the bylaws process.

VI. UK Pigman College of Engineering Paducah Campus

Charles Lu, Director of the Pigman College of Engineering-Paducah Campus, provided an overview of that program and how that campus is positioned to help support the nuclear industry in the area.

Cory Hicks noted that the work that the College is putting into the nuclear engineering program is really helpful to what is going on currently at the Paducah Department of Energy site and future opportunities that may come available at the site.

Kentucky Senator Danny Carroll asked whether the Lexington or Paducah campus will be the home of the nuclear energy program in Kentucky. Dr. Lu stated that such plans are still in the works. Dr. Andrews stated that developing a nuclear engineering program would be a daunting task. He noted that the Paducah campus teaching courses is the appropriate start. Dr. Andrews stated that in talking to companies locating here they are most concerned with recruiting technical employees at this time, rather than engineers.

Mayor George Bray asked if the University of Tennessee had a nuclear engineering program and what the career pipeline looked like for those graduates. Dr. Andrews stated that the University of Tennessee has such a program. He noted that Tennessee Valley Authority has sites in that state. He noted that most schools with such a program are well-established. He said there is a pipeline in place for nuclear engineers from those places. Dr. Andrews stated that if we see growth in Kentucky we would likely see growth in nuclear energy training opportunities. Dr. Andrews stated that companies need are nuclear-certified welders. He also mentioned that companies are having a problem with hiring new graduates due to security clearances. There are some opportunities here.

Cory Hicks stated that the work Dr. Lu is doing with providing familiarity with nuclear work is helpful.

Leslie Sizemore, Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development at the Council for Postsecondary Education, stated that the one of the burden of proofs for institutions that are applying for program accreditation or program approval is that when students graduate from a program that they can find a job in Kentucky. She

said that is why we have been focusing on technical education, so we can ensure there are jobs here in Kentucky.

Liz Natter thanked Dr. Lu for providing an educational presentation. She said it was very interesting to see what the University of Kentucky at Paducah Campus is doing. She noted that she was appointed to represent environmental interests. The interests that I represent, and the folks I've been speaking to are not unconditionally in favor of an expansion of nuclear industry in the State, in the absence of considerations of safety, environmental responsibility, community input and consent, as well as appropriate siting.

Mayor George Bray stated that the community is well aware of those concerns.

Cory Hicks stated that those at the tour earlier in the day understand our commitment to safety and environmental responsibility.

Kentucky Senator Danny Carroll noted that there is an inherent safety nature in nuclear. There is a culture of safety throughout the industry. Everyone is giving their very best. We do talk about safety and community involvement. He stated it was part of the reason we put the nuclear ready certification in the legislation so communities can step up and they can identify themselves.

#### VII. SMR Construction Permit Application at Clinch River

Justin Maierhofer, KNEDA member who works for the Tennessee Valley Authority, provided an update on the permit application that TVA submitted for Clinch River. TVA holds the nation's only early-site permit for an advanced nuclear reactor. The site is on Clinch River, near Oak Ridge National Laboratory. TVA has owned that permit since 2019. On May 22, TVA became the first utility to submit a construction permit application for a small modular reactor to the United State Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The construction permit application is the next step in building a small modular reactor at that site. Potentially TVA could begin construction in 2028 and could go into commercial operation in 2032.

Mayor George Bray asked whether the current administration cutting time some lead time on NRC applications. Justin Maierhofer noted that his office is seeing some of that with the NRC. He stated that a challenge facing the industry is getting a nuclear vessel. Those items are constructed in Japan and Korea. The lead time for those is five years.

#### VIII. Other Business

Angie Hatton, Chair of the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC), opened a case this week to allow stakeholders to express concerns and investigate

opportunities to explore nuclear energy in the state. The Kentucky Public Service Commission is doing this as part of air compliance with Senator Carroll's joint resolution from 2024. The PSC is seeking information for an informal conference by July 11. The PSC will then be going to host a more formal multi-day technical conference where we'll have panels and discussions. And finally, we're going to hold public meetings throughout the State so definitely one of Paducah. PSC wants to ensure they don't neglect to talk about the impact on rate payers, electric grid reliability, our environment, as well as economic and workforce development options. The PSC case number is 202-50-0186.

Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer stated that Northern Kentucky would like to be the second stop for a PSC technical conference. Amy Spiller noted she would support such an effort to host that meeting in Northern Kentucky.

Cory Hicks stated that Senator Carroll hit on something. He noted that the legislature would be coming back into session. He asked whether the Authority should put something together to put a piece together to showcase the need for nuclear investment in Kentucky.

#### IX. Adjournment

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