

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Jim Duderstadt, President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan. This afternoon I wear the hat of chairman of the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee (NERA) of the Department of Energy.

As you may be aware, NERAC was established to provide independent advice to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on complex science and technical issues that arise in the planning, managing, and implementation of DOE's nuclear energy program. NERAC assists DOE by reviewing the research and development (R&D) activities of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) and providing advice and recommendations on long-range plans, priorities, and strategies to effectively address the scientific and engineering aspects of these efforts. In addition, the committee provides advice on national policy and scientific aspects on nuclear energy research issues as requested by the Secretary of Energy or the Director, NE. The committee operates in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and has a diverse membership with a balance of disciplines, interests, experiences, points of view, and geography from academia, industry, and national laboratory communities. A list of the current membership of the Committee is provided as an appendix to my testimony

Last year DOE requested that NERAC assist the Department in developing a long-term nuclear energy R&D plan, identifying priorities and possible programs along with an assessment of funding and infrastructure needs. Furthermore, the Committee was also tasked to evaluate DOE's physical infrastructure for nuclear energy research (e.g., research reactors, hot cells, and accelerators) in light of the needs suggested by the long range nuclear energy R&D plan. In addition, NERAC was asked to assess the current crisis in university nuclear engineering programs and campus-based research facilities in light of the growing human resources needs of the nation.

To conduct these long range planning activities and provide timely advice concerning ongoing or proposed DOE programs in nuclear energy research, NERAC works through a series of subcommittees:

- Long-Range Nuclear Technology Research and Development Plan
- Nuclear Science and Technology Infrastructure Roadmap Committee
- Long Term Isotope Research and Production Plan Subcommittee
- NERAC Blue Ribbon Panel on the Future of University Nuclear Engineering Programs and University Research Reactors
- Technology Opportunities for Increasing the Proliferation Resistance For Civilian Nuclear Power Systems (TOPS) Task Force
- Accelerator Transmutation of Waste Subcommittee
- Operating Nuclear Power Plant Research, Coordination, and Planning Subcommittee