

GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY – DEFINING A ROLE FOR A RIGHT SIZED REACTOR

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ABSTRACT

President Eisenhower’s 1953 “Atoms for Peace” speech at the United Nations laid the foundation for the present global nuclear enterprise. In his speech, he recommended the creation of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He offered nuclear technology developed in the United States to other nations as part of a broad nuclear arms control initiative. Since 1953, the world has produced over 400 nuclear power reactors and all but four nations have signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Significant nuclear arms control treaties have been signed. Important international organizations related to nuclear matters have been established. Perhaps the most important is that neither World War III nor nuclear conflict has occurred.

The end of the Cold War, the events of September 11, 2001, and almost global support for the resurgence of nuclear energy have created a new opportunity to reinvigorate our commitment to peace and prosperity built around a new “Global Nuclear Future.” For the U.S. to return to its former position as a visionary leader in the beneficial use of nuclear technology and materials on a global scale, it is imperative that steps be taken to reverse the conditions and decisions that led to the present situation—for the most part, the U.S. nuclear supply industry has moved offshore. This will require an integrated or holistic view of the global nuclear enterprise, from the cradle-to-the grave. Some of the realities of the global nuclear state will be outlined in the presentation.