

CLEARPATH

Administration's Nuclear Review Vital to Pulling Industry Out of Crisis

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2017 -- The Trump administration's upcoming comprehensive study of the promises and challenges of the U.S. nuclear sector may be the catalyst for a wholesale effort to stabilize and modernize the country's most reliable form of emission-free electricity.

"The U.S. nuclear sector is at a crisis point where the industry must innovate or die," ClearPath Founder and CEO Jay Faison said. "This soup-to-nuts review by the administration may result in new policy that will accelerate aggressive efforts by those like NuScale Power and Bill Gates's TerraPower towards reinvigorating an immensely important industry that America created and dominated for decades."

"We strongly support this move by an administration committed to fulfilling nuclear's promise for American jobs, global competitiveness, security and clean energy," ClearPath Executive Director Rich Powell said. "Today, the U.S. has no comprehensive nuclear policy. We hope this study will develop that roadmap for this administration, and ideally Congress, to chart out a fresh future of U.S. nuclear dominance - from saving the existing fleet, to onboarding breakthrough technologies and dealing responsibly with the nuclear fuel cycle."

There are key questions to be addressed in each area of nuclear power. For the existing fleet, cheap natural gas prices and a highly subsidized renewable power sector have severely impacted a wholesale power market that doesn't properly value its reliability and resilience benefits to the electric grid. A sluggish pace of licensing and other oversight at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission also bogs down reactors. In advanced nuclear, we have tremendous expertise in R&D but could soon fall behind rivals such as China and Russia. Lastly, the American nuclear fuel cycle lacks a comprehensive assessment of safe storage and disposal and nonproliferation considerations.

But there are signs of hope. NuScale is on the verge of commercializing a first-of-its kind small modular nuclear reactor that offers state-of-the-art operations and greater flexibility, and can be built in a factory and delivered by barge or otherwise shipped anywhere in the world.

Other advanced nuclear technologies, such as the molten chloride fast reactor being developed by the Gates-funded TerraPower in coordination with Southern Company, offer another glimpse at the potential for a major U.S.-led revamping of the sector.

About ClearPath

Founded by businessman Jay Faison, ClearPath's mission is to accelerate conservative clean energy solutions. To advance the mission, ClearPath develops cutting-edge policy and messaging and works with policymakers and industry. Learn more at clearpath.org. Follow us on Twitter: [@JayFaison1](https://twitter.com/JayFaison1), [@powellrich](https://twitter.com/powellrich)