

## What's This Plan About?

The North American – Young Generation in Nuclear is a professional society for young professionals in the fields of nuclear science and technology. One of the goals of the organization is to inform the public of the benefits and demystify the myths of nuclear science and technology. Over the past six years, the professional society has sponsored many activities and forums where young professionals have completed outreach activities in their home districts and had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators while at national meetings. During the 2005 NA-YGN conference that took place in Washington D.C., NA-YGN members learned about the current issues in the nuclear industries and the positive communication styles needed to address the public on technical issues. The participants then “went to the Hill” and met with 21 Congressional aids to discuss our concerns. NA-YGN will repeat this event during the 2009 Professional Development conference. Meetings with Congressmen and other elected officials should be a continuous effort by NA-YGN members.

This communication plan will be a starting point for those members who want to become more politically active. The plan outlines how NA-YGN members can address their local Congressmen and provide members with the tools and information needed to prepare for these meetings.

NA-YGN supports and encourages young professionals to be active in providing accurate technical information to elected officials and the public. Preparing for all public discussions on nuclear subjects can be daunting for any young professional, but NA-YGN has captured the key ingredients to help you prepare for such a meeting. Speaking to family or speaking to your U.S. Senator is essentially one in the same.

## Key Ingredients

The three key ingredients to prepare for a meeting with a Member of Congress are:

- 1) Have technical, up to date information available for you and the Members of Congress you are contacting.
- 2) Learning how to contact and make appointments with elected officials you wish to inform.
- 3) Learn how to prepare and conduct a meeting with the elected officials.

## How to Prepare for Your Meeting With Your Member of Congress

### Data Collection

The Core of NA-YGN has already prepared for you a high-level briefing sheet on national nuclear facts. Please review the NA-YGN Leave Behind Sheet for this information.

Be sure to know the nuclear facts about nuclear power in your home state. The Nuclear Energy Institute has already prepared state specific data sheets, available on its Website. Review your state specific data prior to meeting with your Congressman.

### State specific data you should know:

- How many nuclear power plants are in your state?
- What percentage of total power generation in your state comes from nuclear power?
- How many people does your local nuclear power plant employ?
- What is the capacity factor of the reactors in your state?
- What are the economics of having a generating station in the community?
- How many tons of CO2 emissions does utilizing nuclear power avoid for your state?
- What are some of the other nuclear assets in the Member's state/district, such as academic programs, jobs and manufacturing facilities?
- Are there any pending legislative proposals relevant to nuclear power issues such as appropriations or used fuel storage?

### Meeting Preparation

- Identify your team prior to calling for an appointment. When setting up your meeting with the Member of Congress, you may be required to list all of the participants.
- **BE ON TIME FOR YOUR MEETING!** Make sure to be on time and that you respect the Member's other commitments by not staying over the allotted time.
- Introduce everyone on your team to the Member of Congress. Be sure to emphasize that you are the Member's constituent and set up the meeting to discuss the future of nuclear power in the United States.
- Have your team identify who will speak to which points of information, such as safety

### Helpful Hints

- **BE ON TIME!**
- Do not cut off the Member of Congress. If he/she would like to speak, listen carefully.
- Do not make up data. If you do not know the answer to a question, say so. Offer to follow up with the Member's office and then do so.
- Speak plain English! Don't assume the Member understands the technical terms you use every day.
- Leave a few copies of the Leave Behind Sheet with the Member along with your contact information.
- Offer to work with NEI to set up a visit to a nuclear power plant for the Member and staff.
- Follow-up with a thank you note to the Member of Congress and schedule, you may need their help in the future!



## How to Meet Your Representative

### Locate Your Elected Representatives

You can find all of your state and local elected representatives on the Nuclear Advocacy Network's website:  
<http://www.nuclearadvocacynetwork.org/legislatorsearch.aspx>

### Contact ALL Your Elected Representatives

Although this communication plan focuses on Members of Congress, the same procedures can guide your meetings with your Senators, City Council Members, local Township leadership, Governors, Mayors and state legislators – and they all need to hear from you!

### Contact Information

- Each Member of Congress has a minimum of two offices. All Members have an office in Washington D.C. and an office in their home district. The Member's office in the home district is the one you want to contact.
- The phone number and address of the office appears on the Member's website.

### Meeting Request

- Call the telephone number from the website.
- Ask the receptionist to put you in contact with the Member's scheduler.
- Suggested Script:  
Hello, my name is [your name] and I am a constituent of [Congressmen's Name] and a member of North America – Young Generation in Nuclear. I would like to schedule a meeting so that a few of my neighbors and I can discuss our beliefs about nuclear power with the Congressmen. We are happy to meet with [Congressmen's Name] whenever his/her schedule allows.
- Remember:
  - Many times, the Congress Member's office will schedule you to meet with an Advisor or Aid rather than the actual Member. This is just as good! Convey your message to whoever is available.
  - Members of Congress will only be in their home districts when Congress is in Recess. You may have to wait months before the Member is home and has some available time. Take whatever time slot you receive.
- You can also write a letter to your Member requesting a meeting, be sure to include your contact information so the Member's office can reach you. Follow-up on the request about a week after the letter was sent.

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