



**Findings from Plutonium Working Group  
March 2020**

Two years ago, the FMWG formed a subgroup to address the challenge of managing and minimizing and ultimately eliminating stockpiles of civil separated plutonium. The following draft findings are the result of that effort and are intended to spur public discussion on this important issue.

Key members of the FMWG met in a working group several times in 2018 and 2019 to explore enhancing the FMWG's plutonium policy. The group recommends stronger outreach in favor of the long-term goal of the total elimination of plutonium separation from the energy sector.

Recent and continuing scientific and economic analyses demonstrate that:

- The closed fuel cycle is not economical at any scale and is unlikely to become so in the long run;
- The claimed technical advantages of reducing the volume, heat and toxicity of spent fuel have not been borne out by scientific analysis;
- With economic and energy security justifications no longer valid, the separation and accumulation of plutonium not only raises the risk of diversion and theft of nuclear weapons, but also heightens regional suspicions;
- Further separation of plutonium from spent fuel will only cause a larger and more expensive disposal problem in the future.

Moving away from recycling requires difficult policy and technical choices. Such choices, however, ultimately support the long-term sustainability of nuclear energy, which requires stakeholder confidence for its success.