

Resolution 3-21F

Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Starland County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required
Endorsed by Wheatland County

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has now joined forces with the provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan as a signatory to the *Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Memorandum of Understanding*;

AND WHEREAS these provinces have collectively agreed to collaborate on the advancement of SMRs as a clean energy option to address climate change and regional energy demands, while supporting economic growth and innovation;

AND WHEREAS the SMR Feasibility Study, concludes that the development of SMRs would support domestic energy needs, curb greenhouse gas emissions and position Canada as a global leader in this emerging technology;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for the public to be provided with more information and education on SMRs which is essential in helping them to understand, comprehend and support this emerging and innovative technology;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Association (RMA) strongly encourage and work together with the Province of Alberta to create an awareness campaign to engage with the public on the **information** of nuclear technology and SMRs specifically.

Member Background:

Small Modular Reactors are nuclear fission reactors, small in size and power output, portable and function as a power source. SMRs produce more energy while using a smaller footprint without emitting greenhouse gases during generation. Given Canada's commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40-45% from 2005 levels by 2030, SMRs may provide one feasible solution to meeting this ambitious goal.

In August of 2020, Alberta signed on to a *Memorandum of Understanding* with Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, supporting the advancement and deployment of SMRs. Premier Jason Kenney noted the potential to power remote communities, the opportunity for economic diversification and the potential for job creation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

With both the Federal and Provincial governments supporting SMRs, it will be essential that a strong partnership between government, industry and stakeholders be forged. Public acceptance will also be crucial and there is a strong need to educate Albertans about the merits and benefits of this form of energy.

If nuclear technology is to advance within Canada, the need to educate the public is of the utmost importance starting now.