

## Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Project



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[www.NPPP.org](http://www.NPPP.org)

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### **White House Endorses Effort to Replace Bomb-Grade Naval Fuel** **NPPP Welcomes Policy Reversal It Had Advocated in *New York Times* Op-ed**

WASHINGTON – In a welcome policy reversal, the White House yesterday endorsed research, initiated by Congress, to convert U.S. naval reactors – which are used to propel submarines and aircraft carriers – from bomb-grade, highly enriched uranium fuel to low-enriched uranium fuel that is unsuitable for nuclear weapons.

In a [statement](#) released during the fourth and final biennial Nuclear Security Summit, in Washington, the White House said: “Consistent with its national security requirements and in recognition of the nonproliferation benefits to minimizing the use of highly enriched uranium globally, the United States values investigations into the viability of using low-enriched uranium in its naval reactors.”

NPPP coordinator Alan J. Kuperman had urged the Obama Administration to take such bold action at the summit, in a [New York Times op-ed](#) on March 26. His article chastised the Administration’s previous reluctance to support the research effort and declared that “President Obama should instead use the meeting to highlight the naval research as a signature nonproliferation initiative.”

Kuperman today praised the White House statement. “The United States Navy is the world’s largest user of highly enriched uranium fuel. By announcing at this summit of world leaders that the U.S. government will try to end that practice, President Obama has shown leadership, challenging the rest of the world to end such unnecessary and dangerous use of bomb-grade nuclear fuel.”

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