



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Request to Establish DOE Office Dedicated to Nuclear Waste Management

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The undersigned organizationsⁱ congratulate you on your appointment to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and look forward to working with you and your team to resolve the issues concerning commercial and defense nuclear waste storage and disposal. Individually, our organizations have relayed a number of recommendations on these issues that remain important in making progress, but we write today to seek your leadership on a shared priority.

Recognizing that the federal government has effectively failed to pursue a national nuclear waste program for over a decade, we **request that you establish an office within DOE that reports directly to you and is dedicated to developing and managing an integrated nuclear waste storage, transportation, and disposal program. We share your commitment to pursuing a collaborative approach to addressing this stalemate and believe a dedicated office would:**

- **Provide a focal point for work on spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW);**

The office would provide a necessary focal point for executive branch activities related to SNF and other HLW management for which DOE is responsible, including better engagement with the legislative branch. In fact, Congress has previously recognized the importance of a single-purpose entity that reports to the Secretary to ensure an appropriate focus on these issues.

- **Facilitate necessary engagement with external stakeholders; and**

We believe a dedicated office would benefit external stakeholders as well as the DOE workforce. Whether coordinating with private entities on proposed consolidated interim storage (CIS) facilities; interacting with states and communities potentially interested in hosting a nuclear waste management facility; or managing future Congressional directives regarding the nation’s nuclear waste, there are substantial tasks that can be pursued now, and DOE needs a dedicated team to focus on these issues and meet with interested and affected parties.



• **Demonstrate an intent and commitment to take meaningful action.**

A dedicated office reporting directly to the Secretary would send a clear message that the Biden/Harris Administration is committed to discharging the federal government’s statutory and contractual responsibilities related to nuclear waste.

We urge you to take this action immediately, particularly given the funding recently provided by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. We look forward to your response and welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your team to further discuss our request. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact Katrina McMurrian, NWSC Executive Director, at katrina@theNWSC.org to coordinate with our organizations.

Sincerely,

Craig Piercy
Executive Director/CEO
American Nuclear Society (ANS)

Wayne Norton
Chair, Decommissioning Plant Coalition (DPC) Steering Committee,
and President & CEO, Yankee Atomic Electric Company

Ron Woody
Chair, Energy Community Alliance Executive Board, and County
Executive, Roane County, Tennessee

Paul Kjellander
President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
(NARUC), and President, Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Maria G. Korsnick
President & CEO
Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

Katie Sieben
Chair, Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC), and
Chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Charles Fairhurst, Ph.D.
Science Panel Member
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel

Bud Albright
President & CEO
United States Nuclear Industry Council (US NIC)

cc: Mr. Dennis M. Miotla, Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy & Chief Operating Officer for the Office of Nuclear Energy, DOE

ⁱ For more information:

- American Nuclear Society (ANS): <https://www.ans.org/>
- Energy Communities Alliance (ECA): <https://www.energyca.org/>
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC): <https://www.naruc.org/>
- Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI): <https://nei.org/>
- Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC): <http://thenwsc.org/>
- Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel: <http://sustainablefuelcyclesciencepanel.org/>
- United States Nuclear Industry Council (US NIC): <https://www.usnic.org/>