

April 28, 2023

Mr. William D. Magwood, IV
NEA Director-General
2, rue André Pascal
75775 Paris
France

Dear Mr. Magwood,

The promise of clean energy hinges on nuclear power and progress on spent nuclear fuel (SNF) management. The Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee's (NEAC) Subcommittee on Consent-Based Siting (CBS) also acknowledges that domestic energy issues intersect with environmental protection, national security, economic prosperity; and overlap with global and generational responsibility. CBS applauds the efforts of the Office of Nuclear Energy regarding nuclear waste management, specifically, the 2021 request for information and the 2023 funding opportunity announcement supported by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

We have the following near-term recommendations to build on current progress and success:

Acknowledge that the Consent-Based Siting (CBS) Process requires iteration

DOE should move at the "speed of trust" solely determined by stakeholders. DOE should allocate sufficient time and continue to recognize that CBS requires iteration.

Allocate Funding for Future Support

DOE should allocate resources for continued community and stakeholder engagement. DOE should also advocate for collaboration between consortia partners with expanded timelines, scope, and funding as needed.

Advocate for Expanded Stakeholder Engagement

DOE should advocate for expanded engagement from and with civil society organizations that represent marginalized communities. DOE must facilitate availability and access to expertise upon request and as needed. professionals and information from nuclear power operators and professional organizations including international organizations that have been successful.

Advance Publication Timeline for Integrated Waste Management Strategy

The DOE should expedite publication of an integrated waste management strategy. Common community awareness of DOE's integration plans for storage, transportation, and geologic disposal is a foundation for understanding.

The subcommittee is currently considering and will issue a subsequent report on

- The creation of an independent organization to manage CBS;
- Access to waste funding to support CBS;
- Site governance options such as partnerships with local, state, and regional organizations;
- Formation of an advisory panel comprised of social, local, and technical stakeholders such as those from previous successful projects; and the
- Relevance of previous recommendations from studies and commissions on this topic.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our expert recommendations and look forward to your feedback and next steps. We hope that you will relay this report to Dr. Kathryn Huff and other staff in the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy as you see fit.

Sincerely,



J'Tia Hart, Chair
Consent Based Siting Subcommittee
Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee