

**\* Alliance for Nuclear Accountability \* Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Greenpeace \* Friends of the Earth \* Beyond Nuclear \* Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
\* Center for Energy Research \* Fairewinds Associates Inc \* Proposition One \* H.O.M.E.  
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force \* SEED Coalition \* Nuclear Watch New Mexico  
\* Nuclear Watch South \* Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance \* Peace Farm  
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center \* Snake River Alliance \* C-10 Foundation  
\* Social and Environmental Research Institute, Inc \* Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Citizen Awareness Network \* Southwest Research and Information Center  
\* Florida Alliance for a Clean Environment \* Heart of America Northwest \* F.R.E.S.H.  
NC WARN \* Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League**

November 13, 2009

Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Thank you for undertaking a review of the nation's nuclear waste policy. We have been calling for such a review for more than two decades. Given this Administration's commitment to transparency and sound science, we have hope for balance of interests and discernment of technical realities, as well as a panel that will understand that there is a human side to these matters.

We are groups with members who are daily and directly impacted by the nuclear fuel chain and the wastes that it generates at every step. Many of us have been involved in development of policy and outcomes of proposed programs for even longer than our call for review. Last May we (and others) sent a letter to President Obama reflecting on these concerns. We sent you a copy of this letter at that time, and encourage you to review the letter which is posted on-line at: <http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/hlw/obamaltersigners.pdf>

The purpose of contacting you now is to introduce a proposal to enhance participation and transparency in the work of the Waste Review Panel:

We propose that your Waste Review Panel (under the Federal Advisory Committee Act) be empowered in its charter to use a portion of its budget to support the participation of independent experts, public interest organizations, environmental and public health stakeholders, and impacted parties, including Native American Tribes, that is useful to, and will broaden, its inquiry.

Participation should be in the form of invited written and oral testimony, or other activity as defined by the Panel. "Support" would cover costs of participation (for instance travel if required), and where appropriate, provide stipends for original work performed that is not already in the public realm. Such funding should be specifically for activity that is requested by the Panel, its staff or a subgroup of the Panel.

We encourage, as FACA supports, that this opportunity be noticed to the public in one or more "request for proposals" so that interested parties may make their desire to participate known, or for them to nominate others with expertise that could serve the Panel's inquiry.

We appreciate your sincere consideration of this idea, and the opportunity to support the work of the Waste Review Panel.

Please respond to: Mary Olson, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, PO Box 7586, Asheville, North Carolina 28802, 828-252-8409.

Sincerely,

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Cc: President Barack Obama  
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