



**Alliance for Nuclear Accountability \* Beyond Nuclear \* Environment America \*  
Friends of the Earth \* Institute for Energy and Environmental Research \*  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Nuclear Information and Resource Service \*  
Physicians for Social Responsibility \* Public Citizen \* Taxpayers for Common Sense**

November 14, 2008

David Hayes, Elgie Holstein, Susan Tierney  
President-Elect Obama Energy Transition Team

Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Hayes, Mr. Holstein, and Ms. Tierney:

We are writing to request a meeting with you and other relevant members of the transition team of President-Elect Barack Obama at your earliest possible opportunity in the coming weeks to discuss several critical issues that are likely to arise early in the Obama administration.

Specifically, we seek to meet with you to discuss:

**\*The Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program.** Congress already has approved \$18.5 billion in taxpayer loan guarantees for construction of new atomic reactors. At today's estimated construction costs, the Department of Energy says this likely will cover two new reactors. Nuclear utilities and unregulated entities already have requested some \$122 billion in loan guarantees. We have several areas of we would like to discuss including the risk of default for the loan guarantees, the credit subsidy cost, the role of the Federal Financing Bank, the structure and management of the program, the use of Limited Liability corporations, and either the capping and phase-out or swift termination of the current program, before its contingent liabilities balloon to unmanageable and market distorting proportions.

**\*The proposed Yucca Mountain radioactive waste repository.** President-elect Obama is on record as opposing the proposed Yucca Mountain radioactive waste repository on very solid grounds that the science does not support the licensing plan for this site. We wish to discuss the potential options for President Obama to stop this project and redirect U.S. radioactive waste policy in a sound and scientifically-defensible manner.

**\*Nuclear power and the climate crisis.** We need to address the climate crisis quickly and comprehensively. Some legislative proposals have considered nuclear power to be an effective and appropriate means of addressing global warming. We would like to bring to your attention significant problems with this approach.

**\* Nuclear Regulatory Commission's revised licensing process for new reactors.** The NRC's 10 CFR Part 52 licensing process was established by Congress in 1992 with the intent to speed the licensing process for utilities and interveners; however the process has been riddled with problems and we have several areas of concern we would like to bring to your attention.



**\* The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).** This program to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and develop fast reactors is not relevant to greenhouse gas reduction efforts and poses proliferation and public health threats. Furthermore, it faces large technical and economic hurdles to deployment. We would like to discuss these serious problems with you in more detail, including the various GNEP program elements that must be terminated or redirected to reduce proliferation risks and waste of DOE resources needed for other critical energy investments.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these critical issues, all of which are likely to be raised in a meaningful fashion early in the Obama presidency. We believe it is essential for the Obama administration and organizations like ours to work together to achieve the best possible outcome for the American people. Please contact Michele Boyd, Director, Safe Energy Program, Physicians for Social Responsibility, 1875 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 1012, Washington, DC 20009; Phone: 202-587-5242, Email: [mboyd@psr.org](mailto:mboyd@psr.org).

Sincerely,

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