



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Issa:

Thank you for your letter of April 5, 2016 requesting the Department of Energy add an additional public meeting in California's 49<sup>th</sup> Congressional District addressing the consent-based siting initiative to manage our Nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Secretary Moniz has asked the Office of Nuclear Energy to respond because your letter falls under our area of responsibility. I appreciate the continued interest from you and your district in this effort to establish a framework for addressing the critical national objective of managing the nation's accumulated spent nuclear fuel.

The Department is committed to working closely with the U.S. Congress and other key stakeholders, such as state utility commissions, nuclear plant operators, and other public and private sector entities, to move forward on a comprehensive path for disposal of both defense and commercial high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel.

Consistent with the Administration's *Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-level Radioactive Waste*, the Department is actively working to develop a consent-based approach for siting storage and disposal facilities needed to manage the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. A consent-based approach is built on collaboration — with the public, with stakeholders, and with governments at the local, state, and tribal levels. Accordingly, the Department recently launched a consent-based siting initiative to seek input from the public on designing a fair and effective process for siting such facilities, including geologic repositories. An Invitation for Public Comment was published in the Federal Register soliciting input on important considerations in designing a fair and effective process for siting. In addition, DOE will hold eight public meetings in different regions of the country.

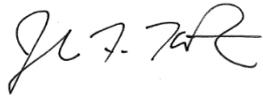
The locations of these public meetings were chosen to enable a number of stakeholders in different regions the ability to participate in person and provide input regarding designing a consent-based process. Those stakeholders not able to participate in person at one of the public meeting locations are able to watch the meetings via webcast and submit their comments to the Department electronically.

Unfortunately, we are unable to schedule an additional public meeting at this time. However, in response to the interest shown by you and your constituents regarding the storage of spent nuclear fuel at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), I will attend the next SONGS Community Engagement Panel public meeting this June.

If you need additional information, please contact me or Mr. Brad Crowell, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. F. Kotek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John F. Kotek  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Energy