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January 4, 2011

Letter sent by facsimile

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
United States Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The members Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC) are disappointed that while the Department of Energy (DOE) has cut off all funds and dismantled the nuclear waste disposal program, the Administration's policy is to continue collecting approximately \$758 million in fees paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) by the nation's ratepayers.

Since 1983, ratepayers from 41 states have paid more than \$35 billion, including interest, into the NWF, which Congress established for the development of a permanent repository and the removal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from decommissioned and nuclear plant sites.

The DOE concluded in its October 2010 NWF fee adequacy review, that it found no evidence the charge of 1/10-cent per kilowatt hour should be altered or postponed as required by the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended.

The NWSC still holds the DOE accountable to issue on a regular basis a financial and budget report showing how the amount of NWF fees collected are being administered. The last summary of the Program Financial and Budget Information Report was issued on January 31, 2010. Therefore, we will like to know when will the DOE plans to issue the next report accounting for the NWF income and disbursements.

The NWSC is an ad hoc group of state utility regulators, state attorneys general, electric utilities and associate members representing 47 member/affiliate organizations in 31 states, committed to reforming and adequately funding the U.S. civilian high-level nuclear waste transportation, storage, and disposal program.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wright", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Wright  
Commissioner, South Carolina Public Service Commission and  
Chairman, Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition

C: The President of the United States  
The Honorable Pete Lyons, DOE/Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Nominee