



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 6, 2004

Mr. Robert Thompson, Chairman  
Councilmember, Richland, Washington  
Energy Communities Alliance  
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036


Dear Mr. Thompson:

This is in response to your March 17, 2004, letter to Secretary Abraham regarding the deletion of community support from the Office of Environmental Management (EM) requests for proposals at various Department of Energy (DOE) sites. The Secretary asked that I respond to you.

The primary responsibility for EM is to safely accelerate the environmental cleanup at DOE sites as a result of our nuclear legacy. The EM mission is not, and should not be, the enduring mission at DOE sites. The greatest economic gift we can provide to a community is to accomplish this cleanup safely, quickly and cost effectively. During the cleanup project, EM contractors typically create economic value within the local community, but also gain valuable experience and create economic opportunities locally and nationally. The result of our success will be a clean site that can be transferred back to the local communities or to another Federal agency, or a clean site that can be used for continuing and enduring DOE missions without the financial burden and risk associated with contaminated facilities and property.

DOE is committed to continue to work with the local communities to ensure we successfully achieve our cleanup mission. If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Barbara D. Male, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Performance Intelligence and Improvement, at (202) 586-1665.

Sincerely,

  
Jessie Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

