

## ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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August 27, 2009

Under Secretary Kristina Johnson  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**Re: Meeting Request to discuss “Energy Parks Initiative”**

- 1) A cross cutting office is needed within DOE to improve the ability of different offices to coordinate and accomplish DOE initiatives; and**
- 2) Energy Parks Initiative can be regional energy demonstration projects by creating incubators for DOE technology HUBS at sites that DOE owns and where DOE has relationships with communities.**

Dear Under Secretary Johnson:

I am writing on behalf of Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) to request a meeting to discuss the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) “Energy Parks Initiative” and the need for a cross cutting office in DOE to improve the ability of different offices to coordinate and accomplish DOE initiatives. By leveraging DOE-owned assets and getting various DOE offices to think beyond current “stove pipe” operations, DOE can create regional energy demonstration projects that can be models for the country.

ECA is the organization of local communities that are adjacent to Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) activities. Our board members include elected and appointed officials from communities supporting DOE sites.

ECA’s goal is to help make DOE’s Energy Parks become regional energy demonstration projects that can be models for local communities at sites that DOE owns as well as other federal facilities. Our members recognize the opportunities the Energy Parks Initiative presents to create national models for smart energy grids, become incubators for new technologies being created by DOE technology HUBS and DOE national laboratories, increase energy efficiency, develop

clean energy resources and create new, green jobs for the skilled laborers familiar with DOE sites and missions in our communities. These are goals we know we share with DOE.

ECA believes that the current structure of DOE makes it difficult for offices to coordinate unless the Secretary tells them to work together. A prime example of this coordination problem is the Energy Parks Initiative. ECA feels this project needs direction from the top leadership at DOE to allow different DOE offices to work together to achieve Energy Parks goals. ECA is concerned that the Energy Parks Initiative is not moving forward because the Office of Environmental Management (EM) is the program's only supporter.

DOE originally developed the Energy Parks Initiative to use contaminated land and move it into productive use for energy development. Energy Parks were intended to create demonstration projects with local communities at DOE sites to implement new energy ideas being developed at national laboratories and in private industry. The program has grown into initiatives by local governments to assist DOE to create electric smart grids, create models for other federal facilities in alternative energy production, develop regional energy power initiatives, and to provide access to researchers to undertake energy-related technology demonstration projects.

When ECA met with Secretary Chu in February, we discussed the promise of Energy Parks, and why the Energy Parks Initiative and other initiatives born out of one DOE office will fail if DOE permits "Silos" to continue. ECA has met with various offices to discuss this initiative and the offices are very focused on "their" programs and "their" current mode of operation that has not changed for over eight (8) years. No one seems to be looking at how the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Office of Science, the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), NNSA and any other office can work together on a large project to assist our country with energy initiatives. We know that a couple of cross-office meetings have occurred, but when we talk to staff that attended the meetings the response is usually that they are very interested and energized by the ideas but their management is not focused on the issue since they have "their" own initiatives (in fairness we point out that without political appointees many offices have continued on current paths).

DOE has operations at sites across the country that are managed by EM, NNSA, Office of Science, NE and others. Our communities are very excited about the possibility of using alternative energy and emerging nuclear technologies to provide power to DOE sites and their communities. They are trying to work on and promote these programs but are running into roadblocks when they contact non-EM DOE offices. When members approach the DOE office that manages their site or a DOE office for funding a specific project, they are told Energy Parks is not their initiative, and the community should seek out EM. EM has attempted to get support, but without leadership from DOE offices above EM there is very little they can do with Energy Parks. Because of these complex relationships, it is essential that DOE create a cross-cutting position to coordinate efforts between all the DOE offices.

Our members believe that Energy Parks could provide many solutions to the country's energy goals. Energy Parks would provide an opportunity for DOE to fulfill its stated goals of investing in clean energy jobs of the future, securing our nation's energy future, closing the

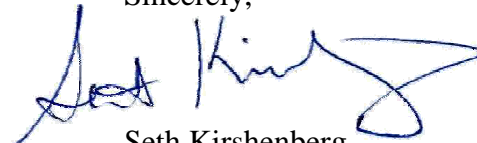
carbon loophole, and reducing emissions. Energy Parks will provide opportunities for economic development and jobs in our communities while utilizing the diverse and unique resources of each community including: highly trained workforces, extensive infrastructures, natural resources, property and location.

Finally, DOE is required to meet energy efficiency goals pursuant to Executive Order 13423. Given the recent press coverage DOE received about the lack of energy efficiency in DOE buildings, and similar statements from both President Obama and Secretary Chu, it seems the Department should be focused on its Energy Parks Initiative. Energy Parks provide shovel-ready opportunities to demonstrate regional master planning between federal facilities and communities and various types of renewable and other energy sources. Several communities have already developed energy projects that benefit DOE, while others are in the planning stages. These projects will use renewable and/or alternative energy sources such as low flow turbines, photovoltaic, wind, biomass, geothermal, and nuclear energy that can provide energy to the DOE site, the community and in many cases the region (many of these projects are being funded primarily by the local government.).

ECA would like to continue this conversation and discuss the next steps in achieving the goal of DOE offices working together on all initiatives and DOE's Energy Parks Initiative goals.

A member of my staff will contact your scheduler to follow up and set a meeting time. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202/828-2317 or at [sethk@energyca.org](mailto:sethk@energyca.org).

Sincerely,



Seth Kirshenberg  
Executive Director, ECA

cc: Secretary Chu, Secretary of Energy  
Assistant Secretary Triay, DOE EM  
ECA Member Communities  
Councilmember Robert Thompson, ECA Chair, Richland, WA  
Commissioner Seth Beal, ECA Vice Chair, Butte County, ID  
Councilor Chuck Smith, ECA Secretary, Aiken County, SC  
Councilor Mike Wismer, ECA Treasurer, Los Alamos County, NM  
Councilor Lorraine Anderson, ECA Immediate Past Chair, Arvada, CO  
Mayor Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge, TN  
Mike Grauwelman, ECA Chair of Energy Parks Initiative Subcommittee, Miamisburg  
Mound Improvement Corporation  
Elizabeth Ogunwo, Scheduler for Kristina Johnson, Under Secretary of Energy