

## ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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October 14, 2010

### VIA FACSIMILE

Hon. Cathy Zoi  
Acting Under Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Energy Parks/Future Use: Request that DOE formally appoint its Energy Parks Initiative Task Force – prior to November 5**

Dear Acting Under Secretary Zoi:

We are writing to request that the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) formally appoint its Energy Parks Initiative Task Force by November 5, 2010. DOE has been working on this task force for over a year, and the Energy Communities Alliance (“ECA”)<sup>1</sup> would like an update on the status of the Energy Parks Initiative within DOE. ECA will be participating in the DOE sponsored Intergovernmental Meeting in November. At that time we will be meeting with State and Tribal leaders to discuss future use at current DOE and NNSA sites, and it would be helpful if we can be aware of the status of the DOE Task Force. The Senate and House Armed Services Committees have already included legislation as part of the Defense Authorization Bill (S. 5434, H.R. 5136) that would require the Department to implement an Energy Parks program.

For the past two years, ECA local government members have made Energy Parks a top priority. ECA has worked with different DOE offices on this important issue and our goal has been to ensure that all DOE offices work together in a manner that helps the nation meet its goals at the DOE sites. According to Executive Order 13423, DOE is required to meet certain energy efficiency requirements. We believe that Energy Parks are an opportunity for DOE to reuse existing assets and land, employ a highly trained workforce, and provide clean energy sources to DOE sites, the region and surrounding communities. At many sites, Energy Parks provide an ideal location for advanced manufacturing and provide sites with the ability to generate clean energy on excess land. Many Energy Parks projects are already underway, and sites need support and direction from DOE to ensure that the program is successful.

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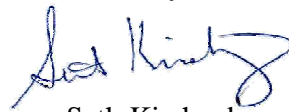
<sup>1</sup> ECA is the organization of local communities that are adjacent to DOE and NNSA activities. Our board members include elected and appointed officials from communities adjacent to DOE sites.

On October 29, 2009, almost a year ago, representatives from ECA met with Undersecretary Kristina Johnson to discuss ways to implement the Energy Parks Initiative at DOE sites. In this meeting, Under Secretary Johnson requested answers to several questions regarding plans for Energy Parks. In February, ECA provided a site by site response to these questions.

The Task Force, once it is initiated, will begin to assist DOE to work across offices on this important activity. Throughout the year, ECA has met with representatives from the offices of Environmental Management (EM), Nuclear Energy (NE), Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Management (MA) and also with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to discuss Energy Parks and the opportunities they can provide. We have also held two national Energy Parks meetings where ECA members, DOE representatives and private sector representatives met to discuss the status of Energy Parks.

ECA believes the Energy Park Initiative is an essential element of future success at DOE sites. Please provide us with an update on the status of the Energy Parks Initiative within DOE. If you have any questions or would like to meet with us on the issue, please contact me directly at 202-828-2317.

Sincerely,



Seth Kirshenber  
Executive Director

cc: Councilmember Robert Thompson, ECA Chair, Richland, WA  
Mayor Thomas Beehan, ECA Vice-Chair, Oak Ridge, TN  
Councilmember Chuck Smith, Secretary, Aiken County, SC  
Councilmember Ralph Phelps, Treasurer, Los Alamos County, NM  
Commissioner Seth Beal, ECA Board, Butte County, ID  
ECA Board of Directors  
Ines Triay, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management  
Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Technology