

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Creating Jobs and Infrastructure Projects at U.S. Department of Energy Facilities

Dear Secretary Granholm,

On behalf of the Energy Communities Alliance, the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, and the regional organizations within our communities signing below, we are collectively writing to strongly support a one-time \$7.25 billion increase in funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) program (see attached). This funding, which could be spent in the near future, will help reignite the national economy, assist in reviving small businesses, and create thousands of new jobs. At the same time, it could reduce one of the federal government's largest liabilities, accelerate the national defense mission, advance environmental justice, and build a nuclear workforce for the future.

As the federal government looks to stimulate the economy from the impacts of COVID-19, we recognize an immediate opportunity to address common needs across the country: **(1) creating jobs in some of the regions impacted most by COVID-19, (2) providing meaningful, measurable economic impact beyond job creation; (3) reviving the small business community; (4) supporting our national defense, and (4) meeting our Nation's infrastructure and cleanup goals.**


Our organizations have consistently supported DOE's legacy cleanup mission, which in turn plays a crucial role in supporting science advancement, national security, and energy research across our one-of-a-kind national laboratory complex. We have worked to improve coordination among federal, state and local government leaders, contractors, unions, communities and economic development entities, resulting in real progress. However, we must remain committed to reducing one of the country's largest environmental and financial liabilities to drive the innovations and technological advancements for America's future.

DOE has already identified numerous Office of Environmental Management priority projects that are ready to proceed should funding become available. Further, the funding to support these projects can incentivize job training, small business participation, and community development.

We are confident that DOE can successfully manage increased funding and leverage it for future economic development as it has in the past. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allowed DOE to speed up decontamination and demolition at numerous sites and award more contracts to private industry and small businesses to hasten the clean-up of legacy nuclear waste. During ARRA, EM proved a worthy investment: the program received \$6 billion and was able to reduce the program's future financial liabilities by \$13 billion through the acceleration of cleanup work. EM contractors alone hired over 20,000 new workers, putting them back to work to reduce the overall cleanup complex footprint by 688 square miles while strengthening local economies.

We take pride in working together to support jobs and development of infrastructure and work that make our country stronger and assists us to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. As local officials, workers, and community leaders at the sites, we take seriously our shared responsibility to protect human health and the environment while reducing the burden on taxpayers. With strong leadership in place at DOE, and with the support of Congress, we believe we have a rare opportunity to address the legacy of the past, implement DOE's strategic vision more rapidly and develop the pipeline of nuclear workers and technologies to help us lead in the future.

Sincerely,



Ronald Woody
County Executive, Roane County, Tennessee
ECA Chair



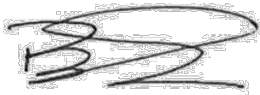
James Hart
President, Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO



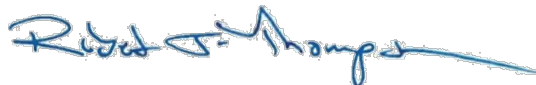
Karl Dye
President/CEO, Tri City Development Council
(TRIDEC)



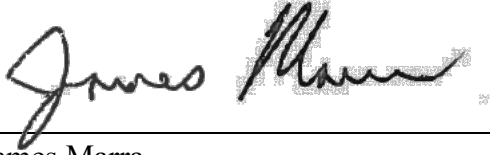
Rick McLeod
President/CEO, Savannah River Site
Community Reuse Organization
(SRSCRO)



Bruce Wilcox
President & CEO
Greater Paducah Economic Development



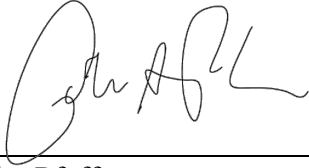
Robert J. Thompson
Chairman, Hanford Communities
Governing Board



James Marra
Executive Director, Citizens for Nuclear
Technology Awareness (CNTA)



Greg Wiles
Paducah Area Community Reuse
Organization (PACRO)



John Pfeffer
Supervisor, Town of Ashford
Town of Ashford, New York



Sandra Wilson
President & CEO
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

Attachment: Office of Environmental Management Project Outline

Opportunity: The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM) has at least \$7.2 billion of projects that could be completed over the next three to five years, making a dramatic economic impact in 11 states across the country while significantly accelerating important environmental work to reduce the federal government's long-term liability.

Justification: DOE-EM is responsible for the cleanup of the legacy nuclear facilities and wastes left behind from the Manhattan Project, the Cold War, and decades of federal government research and development. The EM program has achieved much since its inception in 1989, but today 16 sites remain in 11 states with a lifecycle cost in the 100s of billions of dollars, representing one of the federal government's greatest environmental and financial liabilities. EM and its contractor workforce of over 20,000 are successfully tackling some of the toughest environmental challenges found anywhere around the world.

EM's future scope of work is well known, and for the most part formally characterized. This means the program is well placed to identify and begin work immediately on a significant number of priority projects and infrastructure improvements. Many of the EM sites are co-located with DOE national labs, where acceleration of the environmental cleanup liabilities will support future essential laboratory missions in the areas of scientific discovery and nuclear security.

Project Highlights: With the additional \$7.25 billion, EM could initiate and complete dozens of high-impact projects, including:

- **Hanford Richland Operations:** Risk reduction activities at WESF and the 300-296 Waste Site, soil and groundwater remediation, dewatering and characterization of the K Basins.
- **Hanford Office of River Protection:** Continued design, engineering and construction of the High-Level Waste Facility, which is essential for successful completion of Hanford's tank waste treatment mission.
- **Idaho Cleanup Project:** Complete construction on a spent nuclear fuel repackaging facility to package fuel into a multipurpose canister and place into storage waiting final disposition.
- **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant:** Accelerate the new utility shaft hoisting capability.
- **Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup:** Accelerate implementation of TRU waste processing capabilities; support TA-21 facility D&D and remediation activities.
- **Nevada:** Additional site infrastructure upgrades.
- **Oak Ridge:** Deactivation and demolition of excess contaminated facilities at ORNL and Y-12 to create space for new Office of Science and NNSA missions, accelerate disposal of Transuranic waste and modernization and reliability upgrades to aging infrastructure and utility systems.
- **Paducah:** Acceleration of deactivation and demolition of support facilities for the main processing buildings.
- **Portsmouth:** Accelerate decommissioning and environmental remediation, including the X-555 HV Switchyard and X-530 Remediation.
- **West Valley:** Infrastructure upgrades and legacy waste removal.

- Savannah River: Accelerate F Tank Farm closure as well as complete additional infrastructure projects.