



State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 10, 2015

Dr. Ernest Moniz, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

This letter is to inform you of my support of the community leaders who continue to spearhead the effort to bring a consolidated interim storage facility for spent fuel to southeastern New Mexico.

The recent decision by your administration to adopt a consent-based approach for waste management should highlight areas such as southeastern New Mexico where there is broad support in the region for such an endeavor. The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA) is an organization with regional participation by the City of Carlsbad, City of Hobbs, Eddy County and Lea County. As you are aware, the residents of this area have a high level of understanding of the nuclear industry and its importance to our national security. There is a strong pre-existing scientific and nuclear operations workforce in the area, and the dry, remote region is well-suited for an interim storage site. ELEA has already selected a location that has been vetted extensively.

There is a significant and growing national need for such an interim storage facility. Millions of taxpayer dollars are currently being spent on monitoring and oversight of spent fuel each year, and millions more are being spent on settlement payments related to waste disposition. In many instances, these actions are taking place where such activity and the presence of such waste is disagreeable to local communities.

These communities in New Mexico support safely moving spent fuel to a consolidated interim storage site using proven technology which is the most sensible approach to this problem until a permanent and long-term solution is available. Dry cask storage is a proven, passive, and safe system that has been used since 1984 with no adverse incidents.

Dr. Ernest Moniz
ELEA Interim Storage

Time and time again, the citizens of southeastern New Mexico have impressed me with their hard work ethic and willingness to tackle national problems that many others consider to be unsolvable. In one of the most remote areas of state, they have had the ingenuity and fortitude to carve out a niche in the nuclear industry to broaden their economic base. They understand the benefits not only to their local economy, but also to our country.

Therefore, I support the ELEA and its member cities and counties in their effort to establish a consolidated interim storage facility in southeastern New Mexico that will be regulated by the high safety and technical standards of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susana Martinez". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "S" and a cursive "Martinez".

Susana Martinez
Governor