February 7, 2011

Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
Attn: Mr. Timothy A. Frazier, Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Request to hold a Commission meeting in California

Dear Mr. Frazier,

I would like to invite you and the Blue Ribbon Commission to California to hold an open meeting on the alternatives for the storage, processing, and disposal of civilian and defense spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. This issue is particularly relevant to the State of California. California is home to three civilian power reactors located directly on the Pacific Rim. Each stores spent fuel at their sites; in pools as well as dry casks.

California's unique circumstance should be an important component in the Commission's draft and final report to the Secretary of Energy. The Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station all reside in highly active seismic zones. Although the Diablo Canyon and San Onofre licenses expire between 2022 and 2025, Diablo Canyon has actively initiated relicensing procedures. New seismic information is also emerging, such as the 2008 discovery of the "Shoreline Fault" less than a mile from the Diablo Canyon spent fuel storage casks—a fault for which the latest seismic analysis is still incomplete. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission acknowledges the special seismic circumstances of California's nuclear reactors in its draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants.

It is important that the Blue Ribbon Commission consider California and its seismic integrity when evaluating the long-term nature of the hazards of high-level radioactive waste. In the past 10,000 years of human history, tectonic and other geologic changes have visibly altered the natural landscape, burying some places and exposing others. California poses unique concerns with regard to placing radioactive waste in the presence of those forces and examining the potential consequences.
California is an opportune location for a Blue Ribbon Commission meeting. The U.S. Geological Survey is headquartered in Menlo Park, in the San Francisco Bay Area. The California Geologic Survey, the State Seismic Safety Commission, the California Coastal Commission, and the California Energy Commission have staff specifically devoted to seismic analysis, nuclear fuel, and nuclear waste.

I understand a draft report is scheduled for completion in June 2011 and a final report by January 2012. We are poised to assist with providing useful and essential information for the draft report. Please let me know when you would like California to host your Commission meeting, and I will assign staff to ensure your meeting is productive, fruitful, and educational.

If you have any questions, please contact Gina Adams, Chief Consultant of the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce, at (916) 319-2083.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

STEVEN C. BRADFORD, Chair
Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce

1Humboldt Bay ceased from operating in 1976. The spent fuel is stored on-site in the plant's spent fuel pool.