

## **Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

July 13, 2016

Dr. Richard Meserve Covington & Burling LLP 850 Tenth Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20001-4956

Dr. Joy Rempe 360 Stillwater Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Dear Dr. Meserve and Dr. Rempe:

I request that the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee's (NEAC's) Nuclear Reactor Technology Subcommittee organize a review of the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) draft Vision and Strategy for the Development and Deployment of Advanced Reactors. Given the number of nuclear plant retirements expected over the next few decades, sustaining a substantial nuclear presence in the U.S. beyond 2050 will almost certainly require the development and deployment of a new generation of advanced reactors. Advanced reactor concepts may offer significant advantages relative to current light water reactor technology in terms of enhanced safety, lower cost, greater resource utilization, reduced waste management challenges, coproduction of process heat for industrial operations, improved proliferation resistance, and easier operation. DOE, with stakeholder input, has drafted a vision and strategy for supporting the development and ultimate deployment of advanced reactor technology as part of a broader federal commitment to clean energy and national security.

The purpose of this review is to gather recommendations on the Vision and Strategy document based on the various knowledge fields and areas of expertise represented by the NEAC members. The current unpublished draft for public comment has been released and is available at our website, energy.gov/ne. NEAC members provided informal feedback on the document during the June 2016 NEAC meeting, and DOE-NE would benefit greatly from receiving formal NEAC suggestions and comments on the public draft to guide us in developing and publishing the final vision and strategy before the end of 2016.

The review should result in a consolidated set of comments that can be used to revise the Vision and Strategy. The comments should be provided to DOE-NE by October 15, 2016 to ensure effective and timely inclusion in the DOE-NE Vision and Strategy for the Development and Deployment of Advanced Reactors.

Sincerely,

John F. Kotek

J17.74

**Acting Assistant Secretary** 

for Nuclear Energy

Cc: Dr. Michael Corradini

Chair, NEAC Nuclear Reactor Technology Subcommittee

Dr. John Kelly

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Reactor Technologies

Thomas J. O'Connor

Director, Office of Advanced Reactor Technologies

Attachment: Vision and Strategy for the Development and Deployment of Advanced Reactors