

SAMPLE DEAR TRIBAL LETTER

October 20th, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of Energy (the Department or DOE) recently issued a \$16 million funding opportunity announcement (FOA) titled “Consent-Based Siting for Interim Storage Program -- Community Engagement Opportunities” Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0002575. The Department is pursuing a Federal interim storage capability for commercial spent nuclear fuel following a consent-based approach that will begin with broad public engagement and information exchange, and in later phases seek volunteers interested in considering hosting a Federal facility. This FOA is intended to support Tribal, State, community, and interested stakeholder engagement in learning more about consent-based siting, management of spent nuclear fuel, and interim storage facility siting considerations.

Tribal, State, and local governments, and many other eligible entities located within the continental United States, are encouraged to apply to the funding opportunity.

This written notice is intended to be responsive to Tribal feedback DOE received during the planning stages of the consent-based siting process and from prior DOE consultation with Tribal Nations, recommending that information on consent-based siting activities be mailed to federally recognized Tribes in addition to available email and website information. The Department affirms its commitment to continuing to improve its communication processes, identify best practices, and strengthen its working relationships with Tribal Nations.

This FOA is not intended, nor should it be considered, as a substitute for the government-to-government relationship that DOE maintains in its Tribal interactions.

Awards made from the FOA will have a period of performance of 18 – 24 months, during which time awardees will perform activities that include:

- Enabling **mutual learning** about consent-based siting and spent nuclear fuel storage
- **Promoting community participation** in inclusive and equitable engagement processes
- **Contributing insights** for siting a Federal interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel based on interests and social values
- **Providing direct grants** to interested communities to ensure participation and remove barriers

DOE welcomes and encourages participation by Tribes and Tribal members in the funding opportunity and/or related public engagement events and information exchanges.

DOE recognizes the significance of its long-standing relationships with Tribal Nations and its Trust Responsibility to promote and protect Tribal treaty rights, federally recognized reserved rights, other federally recognized interests, and cultural resources of Tribal Nations. DOE will continue to have a dialogue, communicate, and consult with Tribes with respect to consent-based siting activities, which could impact Tribal resources, environments, or the health and welfare of Tribal members.

The following information is provided by DOE to facilitate Tribal involvement:

- The deadline to apply to the FOA is December 19, 2022. To view the FOA and apply, please visit energy.gov/consentbasedsiting
- Questions regarding the FOA must be submitted by email to consent-based-siting-project@id.doe.gov
- To request an alternate format of FOA materials, or to request a hard-copy of the FOA, please email consentbasedsiting@hq.doe.gov or call **301-903-3301**
- For questions, comments, or requests for Tribal consultations related to DOE's consent-based siting program, please email consentbasedsiting@hq.doe.gov or call **301-903-3301**. Please consider adding 'Tribal Consultation' in the subject line of your email or in the body content of your email.

DOE appreciates Tribal involvement in this important national effort and looks forward to engaging with Tribal Nations that are interested in participating in the consent-based siting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Huff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kathryn Huff
Assistant Secretary
Office of Nuclear Energy