



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 18, 2014

The Honorable Phil Bryant  
Governor of Mississippi  
Post Office Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 2014 regarding potential locations for long-term storage of the nation's spent nuclear fuel. We appreciate your input on this important matter as the country considers the best approach for managing and disposing of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants.

As you are aware, the Administration has made its position clear that Yucca Mountain is not a workable solution. An essential element of the Administration's Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste is a phased, adaptive, and consent-based approach to siting and implementing a comprehensive management and disposal system. This siting approach would allow for communities to volunteer to be considered to host a nuclear waste management facility. We see this approach as constituting an agreement at multiple jurisdictional levels through an open and transparent communication process. In that regard, the Department is mindful of your statements concerning recent news stories related to long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel in the State of Mississippi.

Earlier this year, Secretary of Energy Moniz affirmed that any solution for the final disposition of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel must be based not only on sound science, but also on achieving public acceptance at the local, state and tribal levels. In executing a consent-based approach, the Federal government must work closely with potential host states, tribes, and communities through an open and transparent communication process to gain acceptance. Consultation and cooperation will be essential for successfully siting, constructing, and operating a comprehensive high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel disposal system.

I appreciate your support of nuclear energy and your state's contributions to this industry, and we look forward to a continuing beneficial relationship between the State of Mississippi and the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Lyons", written over a circular stamp.

Peter B. Lyons  
Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Energy

