

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE

November 12, 2010

Mr. Tim Frazier
Designated Federal Official, Blue Ribbon
Commission on America's Nuclear Future
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Frazier:

At our request, the Commission staff is in the process of assembling information on the costs and financing of the US program to manage used fuel and high-level nuclear wastes. To assist in the completion of this effort, it would be most helpful if the Department could provide the information listed in the attachment.

Please contact John Kotek, the Commission's Staff Director, if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Lee Hamilton
Co-Chairman



Brent Scowcroft
Co-Chairman

Attachment

DOE Inputs Needed for
High-Level Waste Program Cost and Financing Overview

1. Nuclear waste fund status and prospects:
 - The current balance of the Nuclear Waste Fund
 - The current annual receipts of the nuclear waste fund and projections of future fee receipts.
 - Annual earnings of the fund at its current level
 - Past annual fee payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund
 - Annual defense-related appropriations for the high level waste program (historical)
 - One-time nuclear waste fees currently payable, with interest
 - Annual appropriations from the Nuclear Waste Fund since its inception

2. Civilian waste standard contract settlements and litigation
 - The most recent annual liabilities report based on data from past settlements.
 - Any available information on costs to government of litigation to date, including attorney costs, expert costs and litigation support).

3. Repository cost projections
 - The annual disposal cost numbers that supported the 2008 fee adequacy analysis, i.e. the 2008 equivalent of Table C-1, Annual Cost Profile, in the 2001 Total System Lifecycle Cost report, showing the annual breakdown in projected disposal costs between MGR, WAST, and PI & I.

4. DOE defense waste and R&D costs
 - Estimates of DOE-EM spent fuel management costs:
 - Current and projected costs of DOE-owned spent fuel management
 - Current and projected costs of DOE-owned HLW waste management
 - Current and projected costs of 'returned fuel' management (foreign research reactors etc)

 - Costs of DOE and National lab research and development into nuclear waste management and fuel cycle technology - past, current, and projected budgets.