



HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Specialists in Radiation Safety

John Cardarelli II, PhD, CHP, CIH, PE

President 2021-2023

jcardarelli@hps.org

www.hps.org

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Dr. Kathryn Huff
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Letter of Support, DE-FOA-0002575: Health Physics Society welcomes the American Nuclear Society submission for the Consent-Based Siting Program

Dear Dr. Huff,

On behalf of America's radiation safety specialists, the Health Physics Society (HPS) is pleased to write in support of the American Nuclear Society's (ANS) submission for the Consent-Based Siting Program funding opportunity with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

We welcome the proposal by ANS to build relationships with communities, constituency groups, and stakeholders wanting to learn more about the consent-based siting process for a federal Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) facility.

As the professional home for America's radiation safety specialists, HPS is a trusted source of radiation safety information that enables the safe use of radiation to improve people's lives. Our membership consists of approximately 3,000 scientists, physicians, engineers, and other professionals.

HPS and ANS have collaborated on several occasions to serve our members and the public in understanding radiation and nuclear safety issues. While ANS focuses on the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, HPS is dedicated to excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety.

In April 2022, the HPS Ask the Experts and the ANS Rapid Response Taskforce launched a partnership to monitor the radiological and nuclear situation in war-besieged Ukraine. Our joint efforts helped instill fact-based reporting into the media coverage of the occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and Chernobyl site. This includes successfully calming fears of a repeat of the Chernobyl disaster at Zaporizhzhia and refuting inaccurate reports about Russian soldiers falling sick with acute radiation syndrome at Chernobyl.

Offices of the Executive Secretary, 950 Herndon Parkway, Suite 450, Herndon, VA 20170

Phone (703) 790-1745 Email: hps@burkinc.com

Along with recent HPS participation in an ANS-led media training workshop for nuclear professionals, HPS and ANS are working on a comprehensible online radiation conversion tool for media, policymakers, and the public to use.

Our respective societies continue to collaborate on media and public inquiries on radiation safety and related issues. Through this collaboration, journalists and decisionmakers have access to leading experts in radiation and nuclear science to answer their questions and to counter misinformation and alarmism whenever necessary.

HPS endorses the proposal by ANS to make progress on the disposal of our commercial nuclear waste through the developing of community engagements on the consent-based siting process for CIS facilities.

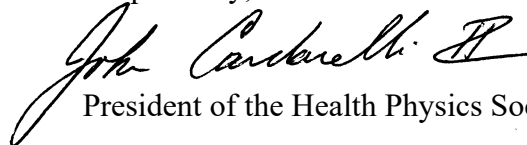
HPS supports ANS in its proposal to engage communities, constituency groups and stakeholders on the management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Through the deployment of ANS community coordinators, ANS will start dialogues with stakeholders, learn how communities and institutional organizations reach consensus on issues, and co-create community outreach opportunities for the DOE to discuss what consent-based siting exactly looks like.

As a professional society, we also see the importance in ANS's proposal for our members to become more involved in their communities, including listening to the lived experiences of underserved and historically disadvantaged groups. We recognize there will be public concerns coast to coast about the transportation of radioactive nuclear waste through local communities and across states if CIS is chosen as a solution. We need to start having those inclusive dialogues now, so we can avoid confrontational standoffs later with those who object to the moving of radioactive waste through their "backyard."

If ANS's proposal is selected, HPS will work with the ANS community coordinators in building inclusive hubs for collaborating with constituencies and communities. Our members are well-equipped to discuss with communities and constituency groups about the benefits and costs of nuclear waste management and transportation from a technical perspective.

We strongly support the submission by ANS and look forward to partnering with them on advancing the consent-based siting process for consolidated interim storage.

Respectfully,



President of the Health Physics Society

Cc: Laura Hermann, Potentiary
Andrew Smith, American Nuclear Society
DOE Contracts Specialist