November 14, 2018

Ms. Anne Marie White
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Via email: HLWnotice@em.doe.gov


Dear Ms. White:

We, the undersigned, write you to request a 120-day extension for the public comment deadline for the “Request for Public Comment on the U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste.”¹ The proposed reclassification of high-level nuclear waste across Department of Energy (DOE) sites would be a drastic and controversial change to DOE environmental cleanup policy.

We believe all interested stakeholders—and the DOE—agree that this decision requires thorough and thoughtful consideration by all affected parties. The 60-day public comment period, which was announced near the end of a separate significant DOE comment period involving reclassifying waste at the Hanford Site that demanded the attention of states and many interested signatories below,² does not allow sufficient time for the detailed comments DOE is requesting.

If the DOE truly desires “to solicit public feedback on the DOE interpretation to better understand stakeholder perspective prior to appropriate input and consultation with affected state and local regulators[,]”³ then the DOE should have no issue granting this request for a 120-day public comment extension for this important matter of significant national concern.

We look forward to your timely reply. For ease of response, please respond to Tom Carpenter, Executive Director, Hanford Challenge, by emailing tomc@hanfordchallenge.org or by calling 1-206-292-2850.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey H. Fettus, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
Washington, DC

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Tom Carpenter, Executive Director
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cc: Secretary Rick Perry, U.S. Department of Energy
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Oregon State Congressional Delegation
New Mexico State Congressional Delegation
Governor Jay Inslee
Governor Kate Brown
Governor-Elect Michelle Lujan Grisham
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