

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Daniel Poneman
Acting Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Acting Secretary Poneman:

We write regarding a long-term solution for the materials located at the Department of Energy (Department)-owned site in Paducah, Kentucky.

We were pleased to learn in February that the Department is considering sustainable, long-term options for the future of the Paducah site. As we have consistently noted, there are significant assets at the site, much of which went unrecognized by the Department until several years ago. As you know, the local community and the plant workers have coped with the contamination and related health issues resulting from hosting and handling this material for over 50 years. Because of this, we feel the Department has an obligation to ensure that future use of the site's assets—including its depleted uranium "tails"—will be utilized in the Paducah community. We are aware of previous proposals to move the tails out of Kentucky, transferring any potential economic development that may result from them. Any option that proposes to transfer these tails out of the Commonwealth will not be acceptable to us. We believe there is sufficient interest in the materials at the site to warrant new development at Paducah, while ensuring the maximum amount of benefit to the taxpayer.

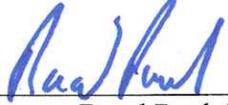
As you are aware, finding a long term solution for the Paducah site remains a top priority for the Congressional delegation. We continue to remind the Department that we anticipate prompt action and clear communication with the Congressional delegation as this process moves forward. Any continued delay or failure to prioritize activities in Paducah is unacceptable to the community, and to the Congressional delegation.

As such, in addition to ensuring these tails do not leave the state, we also urge the Department to make a final determination regarding a long term solution for the site by June 14, 2013 and request a status update on this decision by the week of May 20, 2013. We appreciate the Department's work in Paducah and we look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Ed Whitfield
U.S. Member of Congress

CC: Dr. Ernest J. Moniz, Nominee, Secretary of Energy