



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 24, 2006

Mr. Carl G. Holder
Eastern Washington Section
American Nuclear Society
P.O. Box 941
Richland, Washington 99352-0941

Dear Mr. Holder:

Thank you and the Board of Directors of the Eastern Washington Section of the American Nuclear Society for your March 2, 2006, letter to Secretary Bodman regarding your Resolution in Support for Thorium Converter Fast Reactor Concepts. Your letter was forwarded to the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) for response.

The use of thorium reactors is one that NE has studied for many years and reported on since fiscal year 2003 in a series of annual *Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative Comparison Reports*. These reports may be accessed at the NE Web site, www.nuclear.gov, using the "Public Information" and "Congressional Reports" links.

Your resolution indicates that you and your organization are aware that the reactors currently being most closely studied by NE are the Very High Temperature Gas Reactor (by the Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems Initiative or Generation IV) and the Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor (by the newly announced Global Nuclear Energy Partnership or GNEP). More detailed information about the selection of these reactors for further development may also be found on the NE Web site and at <http://gen-iv.ne.doe.gov> and www.gnep.gov.

Because of the importance of your letter and resolution, we have provided copies of them to the Generation IV and GNEP programs. Thank you for your concern, and I look forward to your continued interest in the technological path forward of these two programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Shane Johnson".

R. Shane Johnson, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Energy, Science
and Technology

