

The Honorable Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administration
National Nuclear Security Administration
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585
Dear Under Secretary and Administrator Gordon-Hagerty,

We are deeply troubled by the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) egregious and deceptive decision to ship one-half metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium from the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina to Nevada's National Security Site (NNSS). We vehemently oppose DOE's actions and urge you to provide greater transparency surrounding the NNSS shipment.

Prior to announcement of the shipment, the DOE failed to disclose a material plan and disposition schedule for the plutonium. In addition, we find it inappropriate that Nevadans and our tribal communities were not given adequate opportunity for public comment from stakeholders on a new mission outside of the scope of projects previously identified by DOE/NNSA for the NNSS. Furthermore, we find it especially disturbing, that at a federal hearing on January 17, 2019 with the State of Nevada, the DOE and NNSA were deceptive in mischaracterizing their willingness to comply with federal court orders on an injunction on the shipping of this hazardous material, when the shipment was already completed.

Finally, while the NNSA has argued that the details about the route of the shipment are classified for operational security, we are concerned about the transfer of these potentially dangerous materials through numerous communities -- possibly in close proximity to schools, business districts and metropolitan communities. This transfer could have very well put American families, industries and small businesses at risk.

We request information related to the schedule for removal of this material to Los Alamos, or other facilities, for planned pit production projects or other purposes. Considering the earlier court rulings calling for additional shipments of plutonium from the State of South Carolina, we also request information concerning existing or potential plans to ship additional amounts of weapons-grade plutonium to Nevada, the timeline of the forthcoming shipment campaigns and information regarding the route through which this material was shipped.

We request that this information be delivered to our offices by February 11, 2019. If there are concerns regarding the security of this information, we ask that a classified Member briefing be arranged by this same date to address these concerns and answer other questions regarding your actions. Thank you in advance for your prompt response.