



A national network of organizations working to address issues of nuclear weapons production and waste cleanup

For immediate release, July 12, 2021

For more information, contact Marylia Kelley, ANA Board President, marylia@earthlink.net, 925.255.3589

National Network of Groups at Contaminated Nuclear Weapons Sites Calls for New Leadership to Head Environmental Management at U.S. Department of Energy

Today, more than thirty nuclear watchdog organizations sent an urgent letter to U.S. Energy Secretary Janet Granholm and the White House, noting that she and the Biden administration face a critical decision that will have far-reaching environmental justice implications: the nomination of the Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM).

The letter cites the “inadequate cleanup, missed milestones, and broken cleanup promises” that have characterized EM in recent years and catalyzed today’s call for “big and bold action... from new EM leadership.”

The letter is from the national Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), a unique, thirty-four year old network whose member groups represent tens of thousands of community residents living at and near the fence lines of highly-contaminated DOE sites across the country.

The ANA letter states: “...DOE sites have more than \$500 billion in environmental liability (about seven times more than the Department of Defense).

And it points out: “That liability is increasing, an indication of the inadequacy of past cleanup practices. Failure to achieve genuine cleanup will cause incalculable health impacts to workers and the public - and significant long-term damage to environmental justice communities.”

Marylia Kelley, ANA Board President, summed up the network’s demands: “**Business as usual at EM will not get the job done!**” Kelley continued, “As one measure of the priority the Biden administration puts on public health and environmental justice, the nominee for EM-1 should be someone with a proven commitment to Environmental Justice in cleanup of DOE sites.”

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A copy of the ANA letter follows...



Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

www.ananuclear.org

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The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

July 12, 2021

by electronic mail to The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov

RE: Environmental Management Leadership

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The Biden administration faces a critical decision that will have far-reaching environmental justice implications: the nomination of an Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM). It is critical that the person who holds this office have a deep, genuine, and effective commitment to remedying the damage done to affected communities living near the highly contaminated sites of the DOE nuclear complex.

We cannot express the dismay that would occur, however, were someone nominated who is incapable of greatly improving the years of inadequate cleanup, missed milestones, and broken cleanup promises. Big and bold action is needed from new EM leadership.

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) includes more than thirty grassroots organizations that live in the shadows of nuclear weapons complex facilities across the country. ANA groups represent tens of thousands of members at and near the fence lines of DOE sites. For 34 years, ANA has advocated government accountability on nuclear weapons issues, including design, production, and testing of nuclear weapons as well as management of wastes and cleanup of contaminated sites. Our 2021 report, "Safety, Security, and Savings," includes the urgent recommendation for a "comprehensive cleanup that defines success by its isolation of chemical and radioactive hazards to protect future generations." Business as usual at EM will not get the job done!

According to the Government Accountability Office High Risk Series, DOE sites have more than \$500 billion in environmental liability (about seven times more than the Department of Defense). That liability is increasing, an indication of the inadequacy of past cleanup practices. Failure to achieve genuine cleanup will cause incalculable health impacts to workers and the public - and significant long-term damage to environmental justice communities.

As one measure of the priority the Biden administration puts on public health and environmental justice, the nominee for EM-1 should be someone with a proven commitment to EJ in cleanup of DOE sites.

ANA looks forward to working with DOE, states, tribes, and others to address this very difficult, but essential, effort to bring about a cleaner, more just, future for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marylia Kelley".

Marylia Kelley
President, ANA Board of Directors, marylia@earthlink.net, Cell: 925.255-3589

cc: Shalanda Baker shalanda.baker@hq.doe.gov, Rob Cowin robert.cowin@hq.doe.gov,
Cecilia Martinez Ramoncita.C.Martinez@ceq.eop.gov