



17 March 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I would like to commend the members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for holding the hearing on nuclear energy development. We strongly support the continued use of nuclear energy as a major component of a balanced portfolio of energy sources.

Nuclear power plants are the largest capacity power generation sources that emit negligible greenhouse gasses. They have the ability to provide continuous base-load generation regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. They also have a high energy density and small footprint, thus permitting locations nearer to demand centers. The 104 operating nuclear plants in the United States have proven to be cost competitive with both conventional fossil fuels and renewable sources.

As part of a comprehensive energy policy that emphasizes safe, reliable and environmentally friendly base-load generation, IEEE-USA recommends:

- Supporting a comprehensive spent nuclear fuel management program that would close the fuel cycle and develop a disposal facility as mandated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982;
- Developing and deploying new reprocessing technologies to improve economics and reduce proliferation concerns;
- Supporting industry and academia in exercising world leadership in nuclear science and technology;
- Continuing to support provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 pertaining to the construction of the next generation of nuclear power plants;
- Developing regulations for the interstate transportation of nuclear waste that includes omnibus rules for safety and security to facilitate reprocessing and storage;
- Supporting the use of nuclear process heat applications to the chemical and petroleum industry, e.g., the production of hydrogen.

Nuclear power is a technology that is available here and now can contribute an even greater share of clean and economic energy for a growing population, raising the quality of life in America, while reducing pressures on the earth's environment and finite resources. We urge Congress to support this critical energy source.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 215,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society with 370,000 members in 160 countries. See <http://www.ieeeusa.org>. For more information, please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530- 8331, or at bill.williams@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon W. Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gordon" being more prominent than the last name "Day".

Gordon W. Day
IEEE-USA President
GWD/ww:mcs