

STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Since the 1980s, the Department has worked with states, Tribal Nations, and local governments on transportation issues related to radioactive materials. As the Department plans for an integrated waste management system, we are committed to a consent-based approach to siting, built on collaboration with the public, stakeholders, and governments at the state, tribal, and local levels.

NUCLEAR ENERGY TRIBAL WORKING GROUP

The Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group (NETWG) provides a forum for Tribal Leaders and representatives to engage with the Department on a wide scope of nuclear energy issues. It serves as a conduit to foster communication and promote active involvement of tribal governments.



U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz with participants from a 2014 summit and roundtable dialogue with tribal leaders, at which he announced the formalization of NETWG. | Photo by Peter Jordan Photography.

SHUTDOWN POWER PLANT SITE VISITS

The Department's Nuclear Fuels Storage & Transportation Planning Project began conducting site visits of shutdown reactors in 2012 to develop a better understanding of the technical and logistical considerations for transporting spent nuclear fuel from these sites. Tribal representatives, state staff, and State Regional Group staff have participated in these visits as well, adding a breadth of perspectives and expertise.

COOPERATION WITH STATES AND TRIBES

To support engagement with the Department in planning for future transportation of commercial spent nuclear fuel, the Nuclear Fuels Storage & Transportation Planning Project established cooperative agreements with four State Regional Groups in 2012 and engages with tribal representatives through a cooperative agreement with the National Conference of State Legislatures. The Office of Nuclear Energy has also established a more focused core group of tribal and state representatives to discuss ongoing and upcoming engagement plans, primarily related to transportation of commercial spent nuclear fuel.



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

The National Transportation Stakeholders Forum is the mechanism through which the Department communicates at a national level with states and Tribal Nations about shipments of radioactive waste and materials, as well as occasional high-visibility shipments that are non-radioactive. The purpose of the Forum is to bring transparency, openness, and accountability to the Department's offsite transportation activities through collaboration with state and tribal governments.

