

# CONSENT- BASED SITING

## Summary of Public Input Meeting Speaker Biographies September 15, 2016



### **Melissa Bates, Acting Team Lead, Nuclear Fuels Storage & Transportation Planning Project**

Melissa Bates is the acting Team Lead for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy's Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation Planning Project (NFST). She has been in this role since January 2015. Ms. Bates came to DOE's Idaho Operations Office in 2003. With technical expertise in contract management, she has supported both the NFST and the Used Fuel Disposition campaign with contract management including, the high-burn up dry storage cask research and development project; alternative design concepts for a generic interim storage facility; standardized transportation, aging and disposal cask design; and cooperative agreements with State Regional groups to enhance DOE engagement with state stakeholders. She also coordinates used fuel research performed by the Idaho National Laboratory. In her role as the acting Team Lead for NFST, she is responsible for the planning and execution of activities to lay the groundwork for future interim storage, and large-scale transportation of commercial spent nuclear fuel.

Melissa holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Idaho State University.

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### **Andrew Griffith, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fuel Cycle Technologies**

Andrew Griffith was selected as the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fuel Cycle Technologies for the Office of Nuclear Energy in July 2014. As the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fuel Cycle Technologies, Mr. Griffith leads the research and development activities supporting sustainable fuel cycle options for the United States. These technologies include advanced fuels, separations and waste forms, used nuclear fuel storage, transportation, and disposal, and fuel cycle safeguards and security within the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy.

Since 1990, Mr. Griffith has served in various leadership positions supporting the improvement of nuclear waste management operations and experimental capabilities in both the Office of Nuclear Energy and the DOE Office of Environmental Management. During his time with DOE, he has focused on advanced fuel cycle research, nuclear material stabilization, and used nuclear fuel and high-level waste management.

Before joining DOE, Mr. Griffith served in the U.S. nuclear submarine force and continued serving in the Naval Reserve after joining DOE. He retired from the Navy Reserve as a Captain in 2009.

Mr. Griffith holds a Bachelor of Science in Naval Architecture from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master of Science in Technology Management from the University of Maryland, University College.

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### **John Kotek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy**

John Kotek currently serves as Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Office is responsible for conducting research on nuclear energy systems, maintaining the government's nuclear energy research infrastructure, establishing a path forward for the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive nuclear waste management program, and a host of other national priorities.

Prior to his appointment as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, John was the Managing Partner of the Boise office of Gallatin Public Affairs. John advised energy, natural resources and other clients facing complex communication and government relations challenges.

From 2010-2012, John served as Staff Director to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which recommended a new strategy for managing nuclear waste in the United States. John led the development of the Commission's final report to the Secretary of Energy, engaged in regular communications with Congressional and White House staff, and served as media spokesperson.

From 2003-2006, John was Deputy Manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office. In that role he was responsible for development and management of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) contract and interface with the INL cleanup effort. Before joining DOE in July 2003, John worked for Argonne National Laboratory as the Generation IV and Nuclear-Hydrogen Programs Manager. He directed Argonne's participation in the Generation IV technology roadmapping project, an international effort focused on evaluating and developing the next-generation of nuclear energy systems. In 2002, John was the American Nuclear Society's Glenn T. Seaborg Congressional Fellow. John served in the Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

John started his career with DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology. He held several positions during his nine years with DOE-NE, including Associate Director for Technology, Associate Director for Management and Administration, and Chief of Staff.

John holds a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

