



March 31, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright,

Re: Oklahoma's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus

I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of Oklahoma's response to the Department of Energy's Request for Information on Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses.

Deep Isolation is a U.S.-based nuclear waste disposal technology company advancing deep borehole disposal as a safe, scalable, and near-term deployable solution for the permanent isolation of high-level radioactive waste. Our Universal Canister System, developed with support from DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, is engineered to accommodate waste streams from advanced reactors, existing fleet spent nuclear fuel, reprocessing-derived high-level radioactive waste, and Greater-Than-Class-C waste. The system is designed to integrate with existing transport, interim storage, and geologic disposal infrastructure, enabling a seamless transition from generation through permanent disposition without costly repackaging.

Our site evaluation framework for deep borehole disposal, published at Waste Management Symposia 2024 and grounded in IAEA Safety Standard SSG-14, has been applied to multiple international repository initiatives. Our preliminary assessment is that Oklahoma scores favorably against every national screening criterion in that framework. The state's geothermal gradient is low, its geology is free of quaternary volcanism, and its seismic profile for deep basement rocks is stable. Together with a strong oil and gas industrial base, this provides arguably the world's strongest available foundation for borehole repository construction and operation.

Oklahoma's proposed focus on waste disposition directly addresses the function that the DOE's RFI identifies as most critical and that has historically been the most challenging for states to answer credibly. That focus is underpinned by world-leading industrial partnerships and capability. Oklo, Deep Isolation, and Occlusion Nuclear Solutions (Deep Isolation's Oklahoma-based supply chain partner), are co-leading the technical content of Oklahoma's response. We are doing so from a position of extensive prior cross-company engineering and operational readiness:

- With ARPA-E support, Deep Isolation and Oklo have already validated the interface between Oklo reprocessing waste forms and Deep Isolation's Universal Canister System, and developed the concept for a co-located power generation → recycling → disposal facility that will now be put into practice at the Oklahoma NLIC.



- Our full-scale repository demonstration program at Cameron, Texas is actively underway, with Phase I groundbreaking completed in January 2026, targeting a total vertical depth of over 4,000 feet – with Occlusion executing the UCS emplacement, retrieval, and subsurface operations demonstration starting in 2027.

Deep Isolation is fully committed to Oklahoma's success in this process and to serving as a long-term technical and operational partner as the state's nuclear infrastructure develops. We urge the Department of Energy to give Oklahoma's submission the full and favorable consideration it deserves.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing innovative approaches to nuclear energy and infrastructure development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rod Baltzer".

Rod Baltzer,
President & CEO
Deep Isolation