Vice President for Research

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
Office of the Vice President for Research & Partnerships

March 27, 2026

Bryan Kellogg
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Kellogg,

We write to express the strong and active support of the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Oklahoma State University (OSU) for Oklahoma's response to the Department of Energy's Request for Information on Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses. We are writing to you today not as administrators fulfilling an obligation, but as leaders of two research institutions that genuinely believe Oklahoma is on the verge of something historic. The state's response to the Department of Energy's Request for Information on Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses represents the kind of convergence of industrial identity, private investment, and academic readiness that does not come together often.

We come to this not as passive observers, but as institutional partners who have already invested in this work. Both universities are named contributors to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's nuclear feasibility study, completed in March 2026 — a nine-month, twenty-plus organization undertaking that examined the full scope of nuclear development potential in Oklahoma. Our faculty and researchers contributed substantively to that effort, and we intend to remain active at this table as the state's Innovation Campus effort moves forward.

The DOE's RFI envisions campuses that integrate the full nuclear value chain — from fuel fabrication and enrichment to advanced reactor deployment, workforce development, and waste management. That vision requires a sustained academic ecosystem, not just a one-time infrastructure investment. OU and OSU are prepared to help build that ecosystem. We bring foundational strengths in subsurface engineering, materials science, physics, public policy, and workforce development — disciplines that map directly onto the long-term needs of a nuclear lifecycle campus. We do not claim a complete nuclear engineering infrastructure today. We claim something more important: the institutional capacity, the research culture, and the commitment to grow into what this campus will require.

Oklahoma's universities will need to expand to fully meet the demands of an NLIC, and we are committed to doing that work deliberately, in close coordination with state agencies, private partners, and the Department of Energy. The establishment of a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus in Oklahoma is a generational opportunity — one that will reshape what this state's research universities offer their students, their industries, and the nation. OU and OSU are ready to begin that work now.

We urge the Department to weigh the depth of institutional commitment and academic partnership present in Oklahoma's response. The long-term success of any Innovation Campus will depend not only on physical infrastructure and private capital, but on the universities capable of training the scientists, engineers, and operators who will sustain it for decades. Oklahoma has those universities, and they are committed.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Sewell, PhD
Vice President for Research
Oklahoma State University

Matthew Hulver, PhD
Vice President for Research and Partnerships
University of Oklahoma