



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 19, 2010

Mr. Paul N. Cicio
President
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Cicio:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Chu of February 24, 2010, regarding industrial gasification projects with carbon capture and storage (CCS) and engagement by the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) with the Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage (Task Force).

Like you, I believe that industrial gasification projects with CCS offer near-term opportunities to demonstrate large-scale geologic storage of carbon dioxide. On May 15, 2009, Secretary Chu announced \$1.52 billion in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for industrial CCS projects. In October of 2009, the Department of Energy competitively selected 12 such projects, a number of which will employ gasification technologies. To date, \$21.6 million has been awarded to the 12 projects. Later this year, those projects that best demonstrate the ability to address their mission needs will be in the final portfolio that will receive the remaining Recovery Act funding for design, construction, and operation.

In accordance with the February 3rd memorandum from President Obama, the Task Force's work is underway and interagency teams are engaged in developing a proposed plan to overcome the barriers to the widespread, cost-effective deployment of CCS technologies. Public input is an important part of this process.

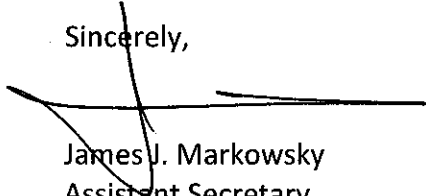
To ensure that there is a means for transparent public engagement in this effort, the Task Force has created a web site that contains relevant materials, a schedule of outreach meetings, and a forum for posting and viewing public comments:

<http://whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/ccs>. These comments will be reviewed by the appropriate agency representatives and given due consideration in the preparation of the proposed plan. The Task Force has also recently announced its first public meeting, to be held May 6 in Washington, D.C. The meeting will provide information about the Task Force and feature experts on capture and storage systems. More information can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/ccs/meetings>.



We furthermore would welcome the opportunity to meet with the IECA to provide information on the formation of the Task Force, and to hear the IECA's input on CCS. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,



James J. Markowsky
Assistant Secretary
Office of Fossil Energy