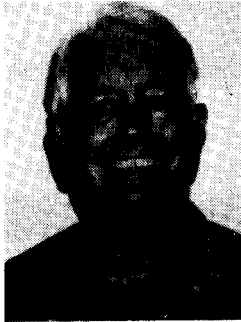


U. S. Energy Policy



THE recent announcement of "the first real national energy policy," by U.S. Energy Secretary James D. Watkins, is catching the eye of members of our nuclear science community. To be presented to Congress by April 1990, the plan has been announced as a common-sense approach to put America on a more solid energy foundation. One of the main areas of emphasis according to the press release is the expansion of nuclear power and the pursuit of basic research. However, coupled with this plea is an apparent lack of interest by the general public.

Here is an opportunity for those of us with expertise in this area and who feel strongly about the need for a long-range energy policy to provide input to our government at the highest level. I understand that the rule of thumb in the industry is that one phone call is worth 100 000 people who did not call, and one letter is worth 500 000 who did not write. So one person can make a difference.

If each of us, who through experience and study has some positive, constructive input, would encourage Secretary Watkins and the Congress to adopt an overall energy policy, perhaps we could see some progress in the production and utilization of energy notwithstanding the environmental constraints with which we are all so familiar. Address your comments to

Admiral James D. Watkins
Office of the Secretary
S-1, Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585.

I am writing my letter today; I hope you will do the same. Remember the old adage: it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

DICK A. MACK
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