



Members:

AGNC has spent over a year working with the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative to seek solutions as our region faces the closure of our coal mines and coal-fired power plants.

At the June 2022 AGNC board meeting, Senator Rankin presented the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative in the context of nuclear energy and the AGNC board voted unanimously to support and engage in the efforts of this initiative. With the passage of HB23-1247, the Colorado Energy Office will conduct a feasibility study on various forms of energy to determine the best energy replacement solution for our region.

According to the US Department of Energy, before getting to the first step of feasibility, it is important to start the community engagement process. Community engagement is necessary to help the residents understand the pros and cons of each energy type – when it comes to the nuclear feasibility, we already know there are many fears that need to be addressed. Our concern is the potential for outcries of the fearful may be louder than those of truth, which could delay or derail implementing any solution. AGNC and the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative would like to follow the Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines and begin community engagement prior to the feasibility studies.

The Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative has applied for a grant from the Office of Just Transition for this community engagement. Unfortunately, the Office of Just Transition will not accept AGNC's unified voice, so they are asking that we *"Supply brief letters of support or emails confirming support from 60% of the nine Yampa Valley jurisdictions (must be signed by the Mayor, City Manager, County Commissioner, or County Manager)"*. In speaking with Senator Roberts, who was recently appointed to the Just Transition Advisory Committee, these letters will help him to better help us gain the funding we are seeking.

We are asking that each of the AGNC member communities provide a letter in support for the AGNC application for funding to engage in community engagement. A template letter is attached and we would be more than happy to provide further information, if requested. As with anything, the sooner we can get these letters returned, the faster we can organize this effort.

Our communities believed in this effort in 2022 and it is my firm hope that you continue to provide your support to AGNC and the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative.

Tiffany Dickenson  
Executive Director