MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Ernest J. Moniz

SUBJECT: Message to the President

DOE is working on several high-priority “hot potato” issues for the end of the Congressional session and COP 21:

2. MOX: We are working with our appropriators and other stakeholders to shift our plutonium disposition strategy from MOX power reactor fuel to dilution and underground disposal. This is much faster and cheaper. While the Senate appropriators agree with us, the House appropriators are concerned about alienating the South Carolina delegation. Even if we do not succeed in the upcoming appropriators’ conference, I believe the groundwork has been laid for FY17. However, we will need to continue talking with the Russians about the change of disposition approach and I discussed this with John Kerry and Susan Rice. DOE’s partner in this, Rosatom and Kiriienko, are amenable to discussion. So far, we have no read on MFA response. This issue will need further interagency work in the context of overall, complicated US-Russia relations.

3. Mission Innovation: The news here continues to be very good. Chile agreed to participate at the end of last week, Brazil joined in on Tuesday, and the Saudi Arabian Deputy Crown Prince affirmed participation last night. Following discussions with Norway and Brazil on the margins of the biannual IEA Ministerial, both countries committed to join Mission Innovation. We now have nine confirmed countries and very likely will end up with a dozen or more for the November 30 launch announcement at COP 21. Bill Gates has also done a terrific job in organizing an international “double bottom line” investor group.