



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

November 7, 2000

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

I am writing to thank you for your consideration of the fiscal year 2001 appropriation for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. The \$2.9 million, which was included for the Board in the final Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, will enable the Board to continue its comprehensive review of the Department of Energy's (DOE) civilian radioactive waste management program.

As you know, for the last several years, the Board has focused its efforts on the DOE's preparations for upcoming repository program milestones, including a possible decision in 2001 on whether to recommend the Yucca Mountain site for repository development. The Board has strongly encouraged the DOE to quantify in the site recommendation the uncertainty that will inevitably be associated with estimates of repository performance. The Board believes that knowing the amount of uncertainty associated with these projections of performance will be important information for decision-makers. Other Board comments, including a recommendation first made by the Board in 1992 to evaluate alternative repository designs, have been intended to help the DOE reduce uncertainties.

Thank you again for your courtesy and consideration. The Board stands ready to update you at your convenience on the status of the DOE program, and it looks forward to continuing to work with you. We also want to acknowledge the courtesy extended to Board staff by Clay Sell throughout the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared L. Cohon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jared L. Cohon
Chairman