



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

December 20, 2002

Dr. Arjun Makhijani
President, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research
6935 Laurel Avenue, Suite 204 Takoma
Park, MD 20912

Dear Dr. Makhijani:

I received your November 7, 2002, letter requesting that I step down as chairman of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board). Your letter states that you recognize that there should be room on the Board for all technically well-considered points of view. I fully concur with that position, and I am sure that the personal views of Board members on Yucca Mountain have not affected the objectivity of the Board's technical and scientific review of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) activities in the past, nor will they in the future. However, because you believe that some opinions attributed to me disqualify me from the chairmanship of the Board, I want to address your concerns to the extent that I can. The comments are my personal views and do not necessarily reflect the consensus views of the Board or the individual views of Board members.

I have given your request considerable thought and find that you give too much importance to the position of chairman of the Board. In acting as spokesperson and conducting public meetings, the Board chairman necessarily must reflect the views of the entire Board. However, all 11 members of the Board work together to develop Board statements and meeting agendas and to scrutinize Board letters and reports for clarity and potential bias. This process has worked well in the past, and I believe that it will continue to work well in the future.

As you know, the Board's role is focused on reviewing the validity of the scientific and technical work undertaken by the DOE related to the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The Board does not make or review policy or regulatory decisions on whether to recommend or license the Yucca Mountain site. However, the Board performs a valuable service in providing its views on the validity of the technical basis of the DOE's work, which can be used by policy-makers and regulators when they are faced with making such decisions

I have made considerable effort throughout my professional career to conduct myself in an objective and ethical manner. Similarly, when reviewing the DOE's activities, my opinions on the technical validity of the DOE's work will be based on expertise and professional

judgment, not on the desires of special-interest groups or on any personal views that I have expressed previously.

In closing, I want to emphasize that the Board will continue to encourage public participation and an open and free exchange of viewpoints at its meetings, most of which will continue to be held in Nevada. Board members have made clear that they are strongly committed to maintaining the integrity and objectivity of the Board's technical and scientific reviews, and I wholeheartedly share this commitment. Therefore, I hope that you will judge me as well as the Board by how Board meetings are conducted and by the technical and scientific objectivity and content of future Board findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Corradini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line at the end.

Michael Corradini Chairman