



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

November 7, 2000

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Visclosky:

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 review and comments on the DOE's efforts in preparing 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 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. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your excellent and knowledgeable staff on enhancing the technical and scientific validity of the DOE's Yucca Mountain site-characterization program.

Sincerely,

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

Jared L. Cohon  
Chairman