



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 24, 2021

Dr. Jean M. Bahr  
Chair, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367

Dear Dr. Bahr:

I appreciate the time that the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) took to review the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) information on technology development (TD) activities related to aluminum-clad spent nuclear fuel (ASNF) packaging, drying, and dry storage during the NWTRB public meeting, held virtually on August 24, 2021. The DOE Office of Environmental Management manages ASNF primarily at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Since 2017, DOE has supported technology development to study extended dry storage of ASNF, including corrosion of aluminum cladding, radiolytic gas generation, and drying processes to remove residual water from the cladding corrosion layers.

The NWTRB commended DOE for sponsorship of this research and noted that DOE incorporated recommendations from the NWTRB's 2017 report on DOE-managed SNF to help guide the work. As suggested by NWTRB, DOE continues to provide resources (personnel, facility access, etc.) for follow-on research as the technology development program progresses.

Thank you for your positive comments on our ASNF TD program. We share a strong commitment to manage ASNF in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment, cost-effective, and achievable. I can assure you that DOE remains committed to supporting this important research.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Aimee Witteman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William I. White".

William I. White  
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management