



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 27, 2016

Dr. Rodney C. Ewing  
Chairman  
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300  
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

Dear Dr. Ewing,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board 2015 Summer Meeting in Golden, Colorado. The Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates your observations and recommendations related to the transportation of commercial spent nuclear fuel, and appreciated the opportunity for several DOE team members to participate in the meeting.

The Department is committed to developing a robust capability to transport spent nuclear fuel in a safe and effective manner to support a future integrated waste management system. As we continue to evaluate technical issues associated with transporting commercial spent nuclear fuel, we will take into account the Board's recommendations that the Department:

- collaborate with the utilities and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to identify and resolve issues that could affect the ability to transport spent nuclear fuel in current canisters and casks;
- assume a greater role in integrating R&D being performed on dry-storage canisters, as well as the identification and communication of technical information on storage, transportation, and repackaging; and
- continue its work exploring the costs and potential benefits of implementing a standardized transportation, aging, and disposal canister.

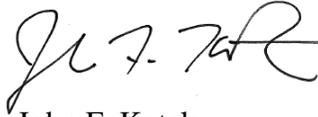
Consistent with the Board's recommendation on publishing documentation supporting the Department's integration and planning tools, we recently held a demonstration of our System Analysis and Crosscut Tools that are currently under development. We were very pleased that two members of the Board were able to participate in this demonstration. As discussed at the demonstration, we are working to increase public access to elements of the Department's data, reports, and integration and planning tools. We hope the demonstration provided the Board with an overview of how each of the tools fit together to deliver a robust system to support decision-making. We invite any interested Board members to request access to CURIE on [curie.ornl.gov](http://curie.ornl.gov), which serves as our public-facing information exchange.

The Board noted in its observations and recommendations that the time available to discuss chloride induced stress corrosion cracking (CISCC) of dry canisters was insufficient at the meeting. We invite the Board to reach out to the DOE team requesting more information or to schedule further time to discuss the issue at the Board's convenience.



We look forward to further engagement with the Board on these extremely important issues in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. F. Kotek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John F. Kotek  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Energy