



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

January 10, 2020

Mr. William White  
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management  
to the Under Secretary for Science  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. White:

I am writing to request that we establish a framework for more regular interaction between the DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) and the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board). This would significantly assist the Board in its review of DOE-EM activities related to the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW).

The Board was created by Congress in the 1987 Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (Public Law 100-203) to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the Secretary of Energy to implement the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and to advise Congress and the Secretary on technical issues related to managing SNF and HLW. In line with this role, the Board has long had an interest in DOE activities related to packaging, drying and storing SNF, as well as planning for transportation and disposal.

To address certain aspects of these issues, the Board held a public meeting in Alexandria, VA, on November 19, 2019. While DOE-EM is undertaking a broad range of research activities related to the management of aluminum-clad SNF and is funding work on development of the DOE Standard Canister, the Board is concerned that DOE-EM elected to participate in the meeting in a limited fashion, supporting only one overview presentation on DOE-EM activities related to aluminum-clad SNF and no presentation on DOE-EM work related to the DOE Standard Canister. The Board suggests that more regular interaction with DOE-EM at a senior management level would help us better plan for DOE-EM participation in future Board meetings.

The Board's staff holds meetings with the staff of the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) periodically, to discuss DOE-NE activities and coordinate and plan future Board meetings. I suggest such staff-to-staff meetings would be good models to use for setting up similar interactions between the Board and DOE-EM. I would be pleased to discuss this by telephone or meet with you in Washington, D.C., at a mutually agreeable time, to develop a strategy for enhanced interactions between the Board and DOE-EM more generally.

I would appreciate your consideration of this matter and I look forward to your response. I also look forward to future productive interactions with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

{Signed by}

Jean M. Bahr  
Chair

cc: Todd Shrader, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOE-EM