



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

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC. 20585
(By electronic mail)

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss a report that is about to be released by the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. The report is addressed to you and to Congress and, in accordance with our normal practice, the meeting would allow myself and other Board members to brief you and/or the Deputy Secretary on the recommendations in the report, prior to our releasing it publicly. We would be pleased to also brief the Acting Assistant Secretaries of the Office of Nuclear Energy and the Office of Environmental Management at the same time or in a separate meeting.

The report synthesizes the experience gained by the current Board members during our nearly decade-long experience of reviewing DOE activities related to the development and implementation of the nation's program for management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The report includes six overarching recommendations and a number of associated action items the Board members believe it is important for DOE to take, in order to implement those recommendations.

The Board was created by Congress in the 1987 Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) to:

“...evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the Secretary [of Energy] after the date of the enactment of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, including (1) site characterization activities; and (2) activities relating to the packaging or transportation of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel.”

The NWPAA requires the Board to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to you and to Congress. The legislative history of the NWPAA records that the Board cannot compel DOE to accept its recommendations but indicates that DOE should accept the Board's recommendations or state its reasons for not doing so.

We plan to offer briefings on the report to members of Congress, their staffs, and representatives of Congressional Committees during April, and to release the report by the end of the month. If we can arrange a meeting with you within the next few weeks, we will schedule those briefings, and release of the report, for after we have briefed you. Please let me know when it will be possible to arrange a meeting for the Board to brief you on the report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

{signed by}

Jean Bahr
Chair