



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
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Arlington, VA 22201-3367

July 22, 2021

Dr. Kathryn Huff
Acting Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585
VIA EMAIL

Dear Dr. Huff,

Thank you for meeting with us, and other members of the Board and staff, on Tuesday last week, July 13, 2021, and congratulations again on your appointment to the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE). It was a pleasure to meet with you in your new capacity and to discuss both the Board's role in reviewing DOE activities related to the management of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW), and the Board's report titled "Six Overarching Recommendations for How to Move the Nation's Nuclear Waste Management Program Forward."

In discussing the Board's activities, we indicated that the legislative history of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 (NWPAA) indicates that, in response to recommendations from the Board, "it is assumed that the Department will heed those views or clearly state its reasons for disagreeing". We were pleased that you indicated you intend to follow this guidance and respond to letters and reports that contain Board recommendations.

The Board's role is defined in the NWPAA as evaluating the "technical and scientific validity" of activities undertaken by DOE to develop and implement the nation's program for management and disposal of SNF and HLW. In doing so, the Board identifies the appropriate activities and decisions that it should review. However, as we discussed in our meeting, the Board would be pleased to receive suggestions or requests from DOE regarding R&D programs, or other activities within the Board's mandate, it would be helpful to DOE for the Board to review. We believe it would be in the interests of all stakeholders for the Board to undertake reviews that offer the most benefit for the development and implementation of the waste management program.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your time, and the time of the DOE-NE staff who participated in the meeting. We believe it was a most constructive meeting and look forward to holding additional meetings with you and your staff to discuss the Board's future reviews of DOE-NE activities. We do hope you can find the time to participate in the Board's public meetings.

Sincerely,

{Signed by}

Jean M. Bahr, Chair

{Signed by}

Paul J. Turinsky, Deputy Chair

cc:

Dr. K. Petry, DOE-NE

Dr. W. Boyle, DOE-NE

Mr. A Richards, DOE-NE