July 7, 2016

Mr. John Kotek  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585


Dear Mr. Kotek:

Thank you for your letter dated June 9, 2016, that presents DOE’s responses to the findings, conclusions, and recommendations presented in the Board’s report on its technical evaluation of the DOE deep borehole disposal research and development program.

While the Board recognizes that budget and schedule limitations will necessarily constrain the scope of the Deep Borehole Field Test program (DBFT), the Board remains concerned that the DBFT be designed to take advantage of the opportunity to develop a solid technical and operational basis for deep borehole disposal.

The Board looks forward to reviewing the draft drilling and test plan for the DBFT. I would be grateful if you would provide a copy of the draft plan for the Board to review as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

Rodney C. Ewing  
Chairman