



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

May 31, 2002

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6105

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present the views of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board at the hearing of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on May 23, 2002. Following up on issues raised during the hearing, the Committee sent questions to the Board on May 29, 2002. Enclosed are the Board's responses to those questions.

As you know, the Board is charged by Congress with conducting an ongoing and independent review of the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the Secretary of Energy associated with the management of the country's commercial spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level radioactive waste. The Board provides its technical views to help inform policy-makers as they deliberate on issues that face the Department of Energy related to nuclear waste disposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Bill Barnard, the Board's executive director, if you have questions related to the Board's responses or any other issue related to the Board's technical and scientific review.

Sincerely,

{Signed by}

Jared L. Cohon
Chairman