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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

October 16, 2001

Mr. Lake H. Barrett
Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW, RW-2/5A-085
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Thank you for your August 28, 2001, letter to each member of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) asking for comments on *Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE)*. I am responding on behalf of the Board

The information in the *PSSE* will be assessed by the full Board as part of its continuous evaluation of the validity of technical and scientific activities related to the Department of Energy's (DOE) radioactive waste management program. Because the *PSSE* addresses issues that are at the core of the Board's congressional mandate, the Board feels strongly that it is inappropriate for its members to respond as individuals.

As you know, the Board will hold a business meeting in late November to begin preparing its comments on the DOE's technical bases for a decision on whether to recommend the Yucca Mountain site for repository development. On the basis of these and subsequent discussions, the Board expects to comment on the *PSSE* and other relevant DOE documents in the coming months. The Board's comments will be sent in letters and reports to the program, the Secretary, and Congress.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jared L. Cohon".

Jared L. Cohon
Chairman

cc. Robert G. Card