



UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300

Arlington, VA 22201

August 30, 2012

Mr. David G. Huizenga
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

As you know, the Amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) charge the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) with evaluating the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in implementing the NWPA. As part of its ongoing review, the Board heard a presentation on the Sodium Bearing Waste Treatment Project at a Board meeting held in Idaho Falls, Idaho in June 2010. After the meeting, the Board indicated in a letter dated October 21, 2010, to then Assistant Secretary Inés Triay that it would be interested in following this program, if it is determined that sodium bearing waste would be classified as high-level radioactive waste.

To address this issue the Board is requesting a presentation by the Department of Energy at its October 17, 2012, meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on the evolution of and basis for the classification of sodium-bearing waste.

The Board appreciates very much the contribution of staff from DOE's Office of Environmental Management in our public meetings, and looks forward to the participation of DOE-EM staff in the Board's future meetings.

Sincerely,

B. John Garrick
Chairman