



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Battelle
The Business of Innovation

June 14, 2016

Spink County Commission
210 East Seventh Avenue
Redfield, SD 57469-1299

Dear Spink County Commissioners:

The Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE's contractor, Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), want to thank the Commission and the residents of Spink County for their consideration of the proposed Deep Borehole Field Test. While we are disappointed that the Spink County Commission is unable to support this scientific project, we respect your decision.

The Field Test is intended to increase scientific understanding of the potential uses for crystalline (granite) rock formations. These potential uses include the disposal of certain types of radioactive waste, as well as geothermal energy development. The Field Test itself, however, would not involve the storage or disposal of radioactive waste. In fact, the Field Test is specifically designed to be done without the use of radioactive waste.

We welcomed the opportunity to engage constructively with the Commission and community members on this project, with respect not only to the scientific merits of doing deep geologic research in granite formations three miles below the surface of the earth, but also on the concerns of the community regarding the integrity of the Dakota Aquifer. Throughout this entire process, we have appreciated the community's thoughtful conversations about the project, even as these became a vigorous debate.

We believe that this research project can be executed safely without harm to the environment or the groundwater; issues that community members in Spink County, and members of our own teams, take very seriously. As we have stated from the beginning, however, we are committed to respecting the decision of the community. While it is unfortunate that we will not be able to partner with the Spink County community on this scientific project, we are grateful that you allowed us the opportunity to discuss our work with you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Griffith
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fuel Cycle Technologies
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

Rod Osborne
Manager, Energy Business
Battelle Memorial Institute