

June 14, 2006

Dr. Judith S. Sunley
Acting Assistant Director
Mathematical and Physical Sciences
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1005-N
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Sunley:

This is a response to your request for a letter of commitment for the additional funding we estimate would be needed to complete the conceptual design report for DUSEL-Cascades. The estimated additional amount is \$408K. The University of Washington and its partners in DUSEL-Cascades are committed to producing a conceptual design report and guarantee funding at this level. As we noted in our reply to the NSF Panel, we expect partner contributions to be “in kind,” specifically the coring analysis described in our proposal. However, the University of Washington is ultimately responsible for the commitments I am making here.

As Wick Haxton previously indicated to Dr. Turner, we intend to focus our geotechnical efforts on one of the two sites we described in our S2 proposal, the Pioneer Tunnel. That is, both the stress-test coring and deep coring, as detailed in our proposal’s budget section, will be performed in one site, rather than split between two locations in the Mt. Stuart batholith. An agreement to proceed with laboratory planning was reached with the Pioneer Tunnel’s owner in August 2005. Current site uses include ventilation, drainage, and railway-related industrial activities near the portal. We recognize that the procedural risks mentioned in your letter likely reflect skepticism about land use and the time required to resolve permitting issues within Icicle Creek. Thus we intend to focus all of our geotechnical exploration on the Pioneer Tunnel site where use agreements can be expedited and permitting is consistent with current uses.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Lidstrom
Vice-Provost for Research