

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

A Federal Advisory Committee Act Committee

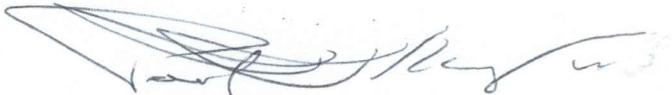
May 28, 2015

Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce/
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Under Secretary Sullivan:

The Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) is required by its enabling law, and by charter, to conduct an annual review of the competitive grant selection process used by the NOAA Office of Exploration and Research (OER) for effectiveness and quality. To that end, OER briefed the Board on its now-fully implemented Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) process at the OEAB meeting in April. The process is the same as that used widely within NOAA. It is akin to the NSF peer review system, but adds a pre-proposal White Paper step in the process. The Board voted unanimously (with one recusal and one absentee) to endorse the FFO process now used in OER. There are no results of the process of to date. In 2016, the Board will review the process and selection results from 2015.

The OEAB has had two full meetings; our third is scheduled for October. We commend the cooperation provided by OER and the leadership of Dr. Alan Leonardi.



Paul G. Gaffney II
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Chair

Copy to:
Dr. Richard Spinrad
OEAB file