

**Ocean Exploration Advisory Board**  
*A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board*  
March 26, 2019

Dr. Neil Jacobs  
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Acting) and Assistant  
Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

The Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) is required by law (33 USC 3405) and by its charter to conduct an annual review of the competitive grant selection process used by the Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) for the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under 33 USC 3403. To that end, OER briefed the OEAB on its annual Federal Funding Opportunity at our March 26 - 27, 2019 meeting. The OEAB has determined that it is akin to the National Science Foundation peer-review system but adds a pre-proposal step in the process. It is intended to reduce workload on grant applicants, which the OEAB supports.

The OEAB commends OER for adjusting the schedule to allow applicants to submit before particularly demanding times of the year, such as the end of semesters and other grant application deadlines.

The Board voted unanimously to endorse the FFO process OER uses.

Sincerely,



John Kreider  
Chair