

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board
May 28, 2020

Dr. Neil Jacobs
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Acting) and Assistant
Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction
14th 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 May 27-28, 2020, meeting. The OEAB has determined that OER's process is akin to the National Science Foundation peer-review system but adds a pre-proposal step that is intended to reduce the workload for grant applicants, which the OEAB supports.

The OEAB's review in the future would be further improved if information on the selection process included data on any reductions in grants from the amounts requested.

The board voted unanimously to endorse the federal funding opportunity process OER uses.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Cameron R. Hume
Interim Chair