DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
4555 OVERLOOK AVE SW
WASHINGTON DC 20375-5320

IN REPLY REFER TO

22 February 2005

Dear Committee Member,

I am actively involved the development of ultra-low background instrumentation and materials, and in the study of both atmospheric and cosmic dust. The Kimballton site offers a preferred location for this research in the United States, and I will work as a member of the Kimballton team to help make this a reality.

Kimballton has a suitable low background environment for the research and operations that I require, its location within driving distance of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, and with direct drive-in vehicle entry (i.e. without elevators) are clear pluses, as is the close association with a University with faculty and students interested in low background technology studies. The low background detector and materials research community must be represented in DUSEL as our work is essential to a broad range of physics experiments that are one of the major reasons for developing an underground facilities. Further, the national security interests, that are part of my operations require an open site in which researchers can advance this low background technology. It should be noted that the technology for detection of minute quantities of radioactive material is also relevant to other fields such as non-proliferation treaty development, archaeology, forensics, and environmental studies to name a few.

My present association, along with my collaborators working in the area of identification of extremely small samples or radioactive materials are presently active at the Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics' Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso. Although, Gran Sasso is an excellent facility the need for extensive and expensive travel and with other problems relating to operating in a foreign country make us look to the establishment of DUSEL at Kimballton where we expect that our research can be conducted with greater efficiency.

Sincerely,

Frank Giovane
Associate Superintendent
Space Sciences Division