



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240



August 18, 2017

Sent via Email and Regular U.S. Mail

Elizabeth A. Eide, Ph.D.
Senior Board Director
Board on Earth Sciences and Resources
Water Science and Technology Board
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth St., NW
Washington, DC 20001
EEide@nas.edu

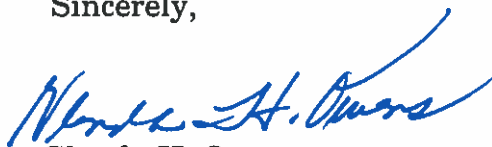
Dear Dr. Eide:

It was a pleasure speaking with you earlier today, and thank you for being available to take our call and email us the additional contact information. As discussed, the Department of the Interior has begun an agency-wide review of its grants and cooperative agreements in excess of \$100,000, largely as a result of our changing budget situation. Thank you for agreeing to cease all activities under Cooperative Agreement number S16AC20034, effective immediately, and until further notice. This immediate cessation includes any third party activities and/or contracting as well.

As discussed, NAS has already scheduled, and funds have been obligated to specific vendors for, an event ranging from August 21 - 23, 2017. Because we do not expect these expenses to be excessive, this three day event may proceed as planned as an exception to this direction. As we further discussed, any later-resulting staff expenses associated with processing reimbursements related to the work occurring during those same three days, which we expect to be relatively minimal, e.g., travel reimbursements, also may be incurred.

Please feel free to call us with any additional questions you may have about this direction as we are performing our review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glenda H. Owens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Glenda H. Owens
Acting Director

cc: Dr. Gregory Symmes, gsymmes@nas.edu
Mr. Douglas Denning, ddenning@nas.edu