June 30, 2025

To:
Kjernekraftutvalget
c/o Ministry of Energy

Via email: kjernekraftutvalget@ed.dep.no

Subject: Integrated waste management to support Norway's potential nuclear program

It was a great pleasure to meet some of you during the Norwegian delegation's visit to Washington D.C. on May 1, 2025, where I had the opportunity to present Deep Isolation's technology and vision for nuclear waste management (presentation attached). The thoughtful questions and engaging discussion underscored your seriousness in approaching Norway's nuclear future.

As Norway evaluates the potential introduction of nuclear power, it is critically important that careful consideration is given right from the outset to the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste. History provides numerous examples of countries that overlooked the question of long-term waste management early in their nuclear programs, leading to decades of delay and billions in additional costs. Ensuring a robust disposal solution upfront will position Norway to avoid these costly and complex pitfalls.

Deep Borehole Disposal (DBD) technology is uniquely suited for Norway's needs. Its inherent safety characteristics, minimal environmental footprint, and economic efficiency make it an ideal solution, particularly in crystalline rock formations like those of likely Norwegian repository sites. Our detailed Post-Closure Safety Analysis of Nuclear Waste Disposal in Deep Vertical Boreholes, enclosed with this letter, demonstrates how effectively and securely DBD isolates radioactive waste deep underground – even in very highly fissured crystalline host rocks such as the lithology assumed in our generic performance assessment. DBD provides unparalleled passive safety and long-term environmental protection, resulting in a safety margin that is a thousand times or more below regulatory dose limits.

I know that Norwegian Nuclear Decommissioning (NND) is actively studying the Deep Borehole Disposal option, and I am delighted that NND, along with other members of the European Repository Development Organisation (ERDO), is supporting the international collaborative effort to deliver a full-scale demonstration of this technology via the non-profit Deep Borehole Demonstration Center (DBDC). While the initial demonstration is planned at DBDC's test center in shale at Cameron, Texas, there is a real and timely opportunity for Norway to lead globally by implementing a crystalline rock demonstration. Progressing from research to tangible action is essential, and I believe Norway is well-positioned to take a decisive step forward.

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For example, the community of Halden – which has already signalled its readiness to host a disposal facility – presents an immediate opportunity to rapidly demonstrate the effectiveness of DBD technology in Norwegian crystalline rock. Halden's stable geological formations and existing inventory of research reactor SNF mean a single borehole demonstration could – subject to regulatory approval and community consent – be used in future to dispose of the whole of Norway's current waste inventory. That would have multiple short-term and long-term benefits:

- Bringing forward successful completion of NND's mission to dispose the current inventory of research reactor spent fuel
- Establishing a proof-of-concept that can readily scale to future commercial waste streams from small modular reactors – like the one Halden is exploring through its joint venture with Norsk Kjernekraft
- Giving Norway's drilling industry early-mover advantage in the emerging European and global market for deep borehole disposal.

Deep Isolation, supported by a global supply chain and established Norwegian partners, is ready to collaborate with Norway on such a demonstration project. We are eager to invest alongside Norwegian stakeholders, combining our expertise and resources to ensure a timely, cost-effective, and successful implementation.

We stand ready to further engage with your Committee and would welcome any opportunity to discuss this approach in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

Rod Baltzer
CEO

Attachments

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