

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR GEOSCIENCES

April 17, 2012

Professor Don DePaolo
Earth and Planetary Sciences Department
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Professor DePaolo: *Don*

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Deep Earth Processes Section (DEPS), which was held at the National Science Foundation from November 7-9, 2011. I sincerely appreciate your committee's thorough and valuable analysis.

I was delighted to learn that the COV was favorably impressed with the performance and dedication of the current Program Officers and administrative staff of the DEPS. I am likewise happy with your conclusion that the proposal evaluation process of our DEPS programs is sound, and carefully and meticulously administered by the Program Officers.

I am grateful for the time that busy people like yourselves have committed to helping NSF and the community, not only in providing retrospective of performance by the Geophysics, Tectonics, EarthScope, Petrology & Geochemistry, and Continental Dynamics programs over the past three years, but also in looking forward to the future. You have provided many constructive comments on broad issues fundamental to the business operations of NSF and investment priorities required for the health of the DEPS disciplines. The challenges will indeed remain substantial for the DEPS programs in the future, but the leadership in GEO is committed to addressing the key issues of organizational structure, proposal workload and personnel needs that you have pointed out.

Once again, thank you for your helpful comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Killeen".

Timothy Killeen
Assistant Director

Enclosure

Copy to: Louise Kellogg, AC/GEO Chair
COV Members