

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
FOR GEOSCIENCES

September 8, 2011

Dr. George Hornberger  
Professor and Director  
Institute for Energy and Environment  
Vanderbilt University  
VIEE 155 Buttrick Hall  
Nashville, TN 37232

Dear Dr. Hornberger: *Sease*

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Surface Earth Processes Section (SEPS), which was held at the National Science Foundation from June 6 to 8, 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 SEPS. I am likewise happy with your conclusion that the review process of our SEPS programs is handled very well, and that our program portfolios are of high quality and well balanced.

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 Geobiology and Low Temperature Geochemistry, Geomorphology and Land Use Dynamics, Hydrologic Sciences and Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology 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 SEPS disciplines. The challenges will indeed remain substantial for the SEPS programs in the future, but the leadership in GEO is committed to addressing the key issues of 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 "Tim".

Timothy Killeen  
Assistant Director

Enclosure

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