



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

November 17, 2014

Prof. Roscoe Giles, ASCAC Chair
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Boston University
8 St. Mary's Street
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Professor Giles:

Thank you for the many outstanding activities that you have led during your years as Chair of the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC). I am writing now to ask that ASCAC take on a new and very important task for the Office of Science. I am requesting that ASCAC establish a standing subcommittee for an initial period of two years to advise the Office of Science on matters associated with the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI).

OSTI was established in 1947 to fulfill the agency's responsibilities associated with the collection, preservation, and dissemination of scientific and technical information from DOE R&D activities, both classified and unclassified. This responsibility was codified in the enabling legislation of DOE and its predecessor agencies and, more recently, was defined as a specific OSTI responsibility in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. OSTI's mission is to maintain, within the Department, publicly available collections of scientific and technical information resulting from research, development, demonstration, and commercial applications activities supported by the Department.¹

With today's requirements for broad sharing of digital data and open access of publications, the "collection, preservation, and dissemination of scientific and technical information from DOE R&D activities" assumes a complexity impossible to have imagined when OSTI was formed nearly 70 years ago. External, independent advice will be needed as OSTI transitions its products and services to methods appropriate to the new era of information gathering and sharing.

As its first activity, I would like the ASCAC-STI subcommittee to examine the following and provide me with a report by the late-spring or summer 2015 meeting of ASCAC:

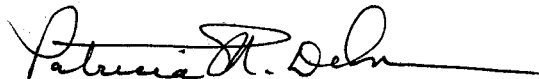
¹ EPACT 2005 (PL 109-58), SEC. 982. OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION.
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-109publ58/pdf/PLAW-109publ58.pdf>



- a. Are current OSTI products and services best in class and are they the most critical for the OSTI mission given the present constrained budget environment?
- b. Do OSTI products and services fulfill customer needs now?
- c. Are the OSTI products and services positioned to evolve to fulfill customer needs in the future? Has the OSTI strategic plan appropriately addressed the rapid evolution of technologies, research product types, and ways in which research results are communicated and shared?
- d. What is the national and international standing of OSTI with respect to similar organizations whether at other U.S. Federal Agencies, DOE Laboratories, or universities? In what areas must OSTI be a clear leader to fulfill its mandated responsibilities to the DOE?

If you or the ASCAC-STI chair has questions, please contact Christine Chalk, the Designated Federal Official for ASCAC, at 301-903-5152 or by email at christine.chalk@science.doe.gov.

With very best regards,



Patricia M. Dehmer
Acting Director, Office of Science