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December 26, 2012

Professor Persis Drell
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
2575 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Persis:

The Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC) has been charged by the Department of Energy's Office of Science to assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the procurement and management processes for the Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) and the Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis (JCAP)—an Energy Innovation Hub of the Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program.

Thank you for agreeing to chair this inaugural BESAC COV panel. Under your leadership, the panel should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and to monitor active projects. The panel should assess the procurement and operations of the programs since their initiation of 2009 (EFRC) and 2010 (JCAP) through 2012.

The panel may examine any files from this period. We expect to structure the review into the following groups:

- (1) EFRC Procurement
- (2) EFRC Management
- (3) JCAP Procurement and Management

You will be provided with background material on these program elements prior to the meeting. The COV is scheduled to take place Wednesday, May 29, 2013 thru Friday, May 31, 2013 at the BES/DOE Germantown location at 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874. A presentation to BESAC is requested at the Summer BESAC 2013 meeting (as yet unscheduled). Following acceptance of the report by the full BESAC committee, the COV report with findings and recommendations will be presented to the Director of the Office of Science.

The Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee has given the panel the following charge:

- (1) For the EFRCs and JCAP, assess the efficacy and quality of the processes used to:
 - (a) solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and
 - (b) monitor active projects.

- (2) Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected:
 - (a) the breadth and depth of portfolio elements, and

(b) the national and international standing of the portfolio elements.

If you have any questions regarding BESAC or its legalities, please contact Katie Perine, Office of Basic Energy Sciences at (301) 903-6529 or via e-mail at katie.perine@science.doe.gov. Kerry Gorey, the Program Support Specialist for the EFRC, will provide logistical support for the COV meeting. She may be contacted by phone at (301) 903-7661 or via e-mail at kerry.gorey@science.doe.gov. For questions related to the overall COV, please contact Harriet Kung at (301) 903-0497, or via e-mail at harriet.kung@science.doe.gov. Also, if I can be of any help with the process, please feel free to contact me at (949) 824-5796 or via email at jchemmin@uci.edu.

Sincerely,

John C. Hemminger
Vice Chancellor for Research, UC Irvine
Chair, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee

Cc:

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