

April 11, 2005

Dr. Ray Orbach
Director, Office of Science
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Orbach:

In response to your letter of August 15, 2003, the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC) has established two Committees of Visitors (COVs) to review program management by the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of fusion research. As recommended in the charge, OFES will be reviewed by three COV's, corresponding to three major components of the program: theory and computation; confinement innovation and basic plasma science; and tokamak research and enabling technologies. Each Committee will conduct periodic reviews at intervals of three or four years.

The report of the second COV, concerned with innovative confinement concepts, inertial confinement fusion and general plasma physics, was presented to FESAC on April 7, 2005. After reviewing this report, prepared by a Committee of fourteen scientists led by Professor Jeff Freidberg, FESAC submits it to you with its full endorsement.

While suggesting ways in which Office management might be improved, the report is positive about OFES procedures and policies; it notes that "the OFES staff does a very good job managing the way it solicits, reviews, awards and monitors proposals..." and that "the community can feel confident in the knowledge that their proposals will be reviewed fairly and conscientiously by OFES."

We thank Professor Freidberg and his Committee for their conscientious, perceptive and very constructive work.

Yours truly,

Richard Hazeltine
Chair, Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee

Enclosure

cc: N. A. Davies
FESAC