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Dr. Ray Orbach
Under Secretary for Science
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Orbach,

With this letter, the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee is conveying the FESAC Fusion Simulation Project (FSP) Panel Report.

The report provides a critical evaluation of the FSP workshop report. The workshop report articulates an initiative to provide an integrated computational description of a tokamak plasma, with particular focus on ITER. The current panel report endorses the major scientific thrusts of the workshop report, but also includes several useful suggestions for more effective implementation. It appropriately emphasizes the criticality of complementing the computational integration with experiment, analytic theory and the development of individual physics modules.

In our letter accompanying the FESAC 2002 report on the FSP, we stated that “FESAC considers the advanced computation frontier.... as one of the most exciting in its purview.” That earlier statement reflects our current viewpoint. However, consistent with the panel report, FESAC believes that FSP must be focused and project-driven with well-identified deliverables and project goals. As the report states, the project should now “move forward to a Project Definition phase.”

FESAC agrees with the conclusions of the report, for which we are very pleased to thank Dr. William Tang (panel chair) and the panel.

Sincerely,

Stewart C. Prager
Chair, Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee

Enclosure

Cc: Dr. R. Fonck
FESAC