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Argonne NATIONAL LABORATORY

March 20, 2013

Dr. William F. Brinkman
Director, Office of Science
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20583

Dear Dr. Brinkman:

In a letter from your office dated July 23, 2012, NSAC was asked to assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes of the Department of Energy Office of Science's Office of Nuclear Physics program. The panel was to provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs for both the DOE laboratory and university programs for the years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

NSAC formed a COV chaired by Prof. John Harris of Yale University. The COV met at the DOE complex in Germantown, Maryland on January 7-9, 2013 and transmitted its report to NSAC on February 22, 2013. The report was discussed at the NSAC meeting on March 8, 2013. NSAC has unanimously accepted the report and it accompanies this letter.

The COV congratulated the Office of Nuclear Physics for its oversight of a distinguished nuclear science program that is world leading in many aspects. It recognized the high level of efforts required from individuals in the Office, noted that the goals of the Office are met through the dedication and hard work of the staff, and declared that the processes utilized to evaluate proposals and to assign awards are appropriate. In the spirit of continuous improvement, it also offers a number of observations and recommendations for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Donald F. Geesaman
Chair, NSAC

Cc: Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Deputy Director, Office of Science
Dr. Timothy Hallman, Director, Office of Nuclear Physics