

Glen Wurden's Extemporaneous Public Comment FESAC Feb 2012

Ok, what can I add to that? Let me start by saying it is all about the plan. We do not have a viable plan to fund our proposed programs...that includes ITER...and especially it is driven by ITER's (funding needs). We have seen this coming for years, this is not a new thing. In a sense this (the FY13 budget) is exactly a disruption, without a precursor.....because when you call up the provost at 8:30AM on the same morning, and tell them at their university that their main project is going to be shut down.this is exactly a disruption. And in fact, there is no mitigation system for this disruption. And we don't have a way out of it, without other consequences. So, ...a...people talk about ITER being the "capstone of the American fusion program". I do not want ITER to become the "tombstone" of the American fusion program. And if we go down this pathway, where we can look at the out-year numbers that we need for ITER, the obvious conclusion is that there is another machine down the road (DIII-D) that will have the same problem that C-Mod is now experiencing.

I've been through the disruption of a program, back when alternates were killed in Los Alamos in 1990. We lost our machine,actually multiple machines, our groups and our entire division. It took ten years to recover from that, and even then we probably haven't recovered. We can't do this to our human capital. It is our human teams that are the most important thing here. I don't care about the \$200M investment in hardware (at C-Mod)...that is not the issue. Because you know, every person has a career plan, every person has an education plan, they have an investment plan, and they even have a retirement plan if they are lucky. (In the same way) we should think about our programs too. I mean, every machine will turn off. I have no doubt. I have worked on many machines. They will turn off (at some point). But you need to do it in a way where it is not a disruption. You need to do it in a way that you have a plan. And whether it is a 5-year plan, or a 10-year plan mandated by our friends in Congress.....and we must deliver that plan.....if we don't deliver that plan there are even bigger consequences to our program.

But it is actually a good thing to have a plan. It is not a bad thing. You can see where you are going (with a plan). And if you see where you are going, and you have talked about it with the community....then you can, you can tell your students what the future is. When there are disruptions, you have no future. And we can't let our premier tokamak team in this country, with a premier education mission, disappear overnight. And even when they are told that their research money is ok for next year at some reduced levelwhat about FY14? If their number is zero, how can they plan? They can't plan. By the way, my budget at Los Alamos is down 48%, or even more, from \$5.3M in FY11 to \$1.88M in this god-awful plan for FY13. We can not go down this course.....(silence).....by the way, a vision without a plan, is a nightmare.

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