



## Under Secretary for Science

Washington, DC 20585

January 10, 2008

Mr. Kaname Ikeda  
Director General  
ITER Organization

Dear Mr. Ikeda:

As you know, besides a modest amount for supporting research and development, the U.S. fiscal year 2008 appropriation provided no funding for the U.S. Contributions to the ITER Project. I want to let you know that the U.S. is firmly committed to meeting our obligations under the ITER Joint Implementing Agreement and that we are doing everything possible to rectify the situation.

The U.S. ITER Project Office will continue in operation and we will maintain support for our secondees working at the ITER Organization (IO). For the time being, however, there will be some limitations on our ability to fully participate in ITER activities: we will be forced to defer our 2008 cash contribution to the IO; postpone some U.S. design and R&D activities; and forego initiating our long-lead hardware procurements. Given their near-term importance, we will remain engaged in two key areas: helping the IO resolve the major technical issues identified by the ITER Science and Technology Advisory Committee, and assisting the IO to develop a credible ITER construction schedule. Lastly, we will continue to actively participate in the business of the ITER Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Science and Technology Advisory Committee, the Management Advisory Committee, and the Financial Audit Board.

In the months ahead, I will keep you informed of future developments on the U.S. budget situation and any changes in our ability to meet the U.S. commitments to the IO. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Todd Harding at 202-586-0505 or [todd.harding@science.doe.gov](mailto:todd.harding@science.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond L. Orbach".

Raymond L. Orbach  
Under Secretary for Science  
U.S. Department of Energy

