



Department of Energy  
Office of Science  
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

April 8, 2014

Professor Mark Koepke  
Chair  
Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee  
Department of Physics – White Hall 203  
West Virginia University  
1315 Willey Street  
Morgantown, WV 26506

Dear Professor Koepke:

I am writing to request that the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC) establish a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes of the Department of Energy Office of Science Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) program. The panel should consider and provide evaluation of:

- The efficiency and quality of the processes used by FES to solicit, review, recommend, monitor, and document awards and declinations for universities, national laboratories, and industry.
- The breadth, depth, and quality of the resulting program portfolio, and providing an evaluation of the program's national and international standing.
- FES's management of its portfolio of line item construction and Major Items of Equipment projects, including the U.S. Contributions to ITER project. Assessment of FES projects' performance, including contractor and Federal Project Director management of projects, is performed by periodic Office of Science Independent Project Reviews, and is not part of this COV.

The last COV activity evaluated the FES program through Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Accordingly, in this assessment the COV should review the entire FES program for activities during FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013. The panel should also comment on FES's progress in addressing action items from the previous COV review. The COV panel should be composed of recognized scientists and research program managers with broad expertise relevant to the fusion program. Panel members should be familiar with FES research programs; however, a significant fraction of the COV members should not be involved in research that is being funded by FES. Each panel member will be requested to sign a Conflict of Interest statement and a Confidentiality statement.



The results of this assessment should be documented in a report that clearly articulates findings, comments, and recommendations. FESAC should submit a report on the COV activity by January 2015. COV reviews conducted in this manner have proven highly valuable to the Office of Science in maintaining a high standard of excellence in program execution. I look forward to the panel's report and appreciate FESAC's willingness to take on this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia M. Dehmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia M. Dehmer  
Acting Director, Office of Science