



January 22, 2003

<Addressee>

Dear New NSO PAC Member:

I am writing to invite you to serve as a member of the Next Step Options Program Advisory Committee. The Next Step Options (NSO) activity was established to investigate and assess opportunities for advancing the scientific understanding of fusion energy, with emphasis on burning plasma behavior at high energy gain. The NSO activity is being carried out under the auspices of the Virtual Laboratory for Technology (VLT) and I have formed this NSO Program Advisory Committee to advise me, as VLT Director and the VLT Program Advisory Committee (Chair: Prof. Jeff Freidberg, MIT). A copy of the NSO PAC Charter which outlines the purpose and responsibilities is attached. Dr. Tony Taylor of General Atomics serves as the Chair of the NSO PAC, and Prof. Gerald Navratil, of Columbia University serves as Vice-Chair. A complete list of the NSO PAC members is attached.

The primary role of the NSO PAC is to provide advice on the mission, physics basis, and design of the options and strategies for experimental studies of high energy gain plasmas. The focus of the NSO activity has been on a design concept called the Fusion Ignition Research Experiment (FIRE).

The next meeting of the NSO PAC has been set for Thursday, February 27, and Friday, February 28 at General Atomics in San Diego following the next meeting of the VLT PAC at General Atomics on February 25-26.. The meeting will begin at 8:30 AM on February 27 and end at 12:00 PM on February 28. A draft agenda of the meeting is attached.

This is a very important activity for the US Fusion Energy Sciences Program to help establish the scientific and design basis for major next steps in developing practical fusion energy. Your advice will be very valuable in carrying out these activities in the most effective possible way.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles C. Baker".

Charles C. Baker, Director
Virtual Laboratory for Technology

CCB/cch
Attachments

Cc: J. Freidberg, VLT PAC
D. Meade, PPPL
M. Roberts, DOE
T. Taylor, GA

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