

NCSX-DOE Monthly Meeting for of May 22, 2000

The monthly NCSX-DOE teleconference was held between 2:30 pm and 3:45 pm on Monday, May 22nd. Joining the teleconference were Warren Marton, Chuck Finfgeld, and Jeff Auchmoody of OFES, Greg Pitonak of DOE-PG, Jim Lyon of ORNL, and John Schmidt, Hutch Neilson, and Bob Simmons of PPPL. The teleconference primarily focused on the project validation process and the logic needed to satisfy the DOE requirements for a fabrication start in FY2003.

Warren Marton remarked that, although OFES intended to follow most of the principles outlined in the new draft Project Management Order, there is no provision to permit the Project Engineering and Design (PED) funds to be authorized. This means that Title I design cannot start until FY2003 at the earliest. This will mean a protracted period of conceptual and advanced conceptual design. Warren also indicated that he believed that the DOE guidance of flat funding for FY2001 and FY2002 would probably be close to what is actually authorized. The Project has requested additional funds in both years.

NCSX will be identified as a Major Item of Equipment and will have to be identified in the budget submittal. The threshold for this is \$2M. As a Major Item of Equipment, a Construction Project Data Sheet (CPDS) is not required, however.

There was a discussion of what is needed to satisfy the CD-0 milestone. Hutch stated that the FESAC review recommended the compact stellarator program as part of its 10 year goals. Although technical issues remain that will be satisfied at the time of the PVR, the basic support of the NCSX Mission Need has been reviewed and approved by FESAC. The Project and OFES will work together to develop the necessary documentation. Warren agreed to provide a sample to the Project team by the end of this week (May 26th). He will also provide guidance on the process so that the Project can properly prepare to support the planned completion of September, 2000.

A discussion followed as to what is needed to permit DOE to proceed with identifying NCSX for "Project Start" (i.e., start of Title I design in FY2003). Warren and Jeff Auchmoody thought that a good cost and schedule review in the spring of 2001 followed by a "Lehman" review and validation in June 2001 should provide the basis for proceeding with Title I in FY2003. This would seem to be the equivalent of CD-1 and CD-2, as defined by the draft order.

There was some discussion as to what will constitute the TPC and when the "clock" will start ticking. Previously, we believed that the PVR would mark the end the pre-conceptual design phase and the start of Conceptual Design. However, Warren and Jeff will clarify this issue.

In conclusion, the Project will update the validation report with the logic for proceeding and focus on the items specifically needed to satisfy the CD milestones, even if the new CD milestones are not yet in effect. The validation report will be revised by the end of this week, May 26th.

Summary by:
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