Minutes of the NCSX-DOE IPT Meeting of February 11, 2003.

Attendees:
G. Pitonak, DOE-PAO
G. Nardella, C. Finfgeld, DOE-OFES
H. Neilson, W. Reiersen, R. Strykowsky, R. Templon, J. Levine, J. Schmidt, R. Hawryluk, PPPL J. Lyon, ORNL.

1. News, etc.

Gene Nardella is the new NCSX Program Manager, replacing Warren Marton who has assumed new responsibilities for ITER. We welcome Gene and extend our thanks and best wishes to Warren.

Congressional action on the FY-03 budget is expected this week. Hopefully, it will be of a form that will permit the NCSX project to start soon.

2. NCSX Project Control Systems Review, Feb. 27-28. Pitonak reported that the PCS review has been organized, the review team picked, charge letter and agenda issued, and videoconference arrangements made. Ron Lutha (DOE-FAO) will chair the review. Princeton participants will meet in the DOE conference room. Review information is posted at http://www.pppl.gov/ncsx/meetings/PCS2003/PCS2003_index.HTML. Watch for updates.

3. Contingency Planning for an Extended Continuing Resolution (CR) Neilson discussed PPPL's current thinking in the event the project start is delayed until Oct., 2003 due the CR prohibition against new starts being extended through the remainder of FY-03. Advanced conceptual design of the stellarator core would continue about as planned, stopping short of preliminary design package preparation. The modular coil and vacuum vessel preliminary design review would be delayed about 6 months, to Jan., 2004. Modular coil and vacuum vessel R&D activities at PPPL and in industry would continue about as plannned, subject to DOE concurrence with fabricating the planned full-scale R&D prototypes in industry. Conceptual design tasks for non-critical-path systems currently scheduled for FY-04 would be

pulled forward to FY-03. The IPT endorsed the general approach, but OFES stated that further contingency planning efforts should be put on hold for a week or two in the expectation that the CR would soon be resolved.

4. Project Progress Update
Reiersen summarized recent technical progress in the project. There has been excellent progress in modular coil design, in-house winding and VPI R&D, and procurement of R&D services from industry. Two suppliers have been selected for modular coil winding form R&D and the contract details are being finalized. The suppliers will be initially authorized and funded to address key manufacturing issues, but not yet begin work on prototype fabrication. The vacuum vessel is being sized to maximize the space for the plasma and divertor consistent with the requirement to slide the modular coils over the vacuum vessel during assembly. Several high-quality proposals for vacuum vessel R&D are being evaluated by the evaluation board.

5. EIR Planning.
Neilson discussed the project's preparation plans for the July External Independent Review, addressing the work scope items provided by Pitonak. These items were modeled on recent EIRs, however Pitonak indicated that the scope could be reduced to a narrower set of issues. The Acquisition Execution Plan will not be updated, since no material changes in the acquisition plan are foreseen. Any changes in the milestone schedule, budget profiles, etc., will be handled via the change control process.

6. Next IPT Meeting: Tues., March 11 at 11:00. Same arrangements.

Summary by:
Hutch Neilson