



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

MEMORANDUM FOR RAYMOND L. ORBACH

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENCE

FROM:

*James A. Rispoli*  
JAMES A. RISPOLI  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/ME-90

SUBJECT:

Transmittal of External Independent Review (EIR) of the National Compact Stellarator Experiment (NCSX) Project at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Attached for your use is the report that presents the findings from the Performance Baseline External Independent Review (EIR) conducted on the National Compact Stellarator Experiment (NCSX) Project at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Our review was performed as provided in DOE Order 413.3 and DOE Manual 413.3-1.

EIRs are intended to evaluate the overall health of a project at a given point in time and to assess the completeness of the project and the likelihood of its success. These reviews are conducted by entities external to DOE; private companies skilled in project management who evaluate the overall project, including planning, cost, schedule, and management controls. The Office of Engineering and Construction Management (OECM), under the Office of Management, Budget, and Evaluation, has the responsibility to manage EIRs.

Performance Baseline EIRs are conducted on all Capital Asset Projects prior to reaching the decision point of Critical Decision 2. EIRs are used to support OECM validation of the Performance Baseline and provide reasonable assurance that the project can be successfully executed.

The EIR resulted in 20 findings with 37 related recommendations. The project's Corrective Action Plan has addressed all 37 recommendations, with actions already completed on 27. OECM is satisfied with the corrective actions. Further, OECM has reviewed and concurs with the changes to cost and schedule resulting from recommendations of the Independent Design Reviews conducted in October and November of 2003, adding \$5.3 million to the originally proposed total project cost of \$81 million, and adding 8 months to the originally proposed completion date of September 2007. OECM validates the proposed project cost baseline of \$86.3 million and the project completion date of May 2008.

Please call me or have your staff contact Suneel Kapur at (202) 586-0110 if you have any questions or comments regarding this review.

Attachment

cc: N.A. Davies, SC-50  
Dan Lehman, SC-81  
Greg Pitonak, DOE-PPPL

