



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 4, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR Daniel R. Lehman, Director
Construction Management Support Division

FROM: N. Anne Davies 
Associate Director for Fusion Energy Sciences

SUBJECT: Cost and Schedule Review of the National Compact Stellarator
Experiment (NCSX) at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
(PPPL)

I would like to request that your office organize and lead an Office of Science (SC) review of the NCSX project.

The purpose of this review is to evaluate the project's cost, scope, and schedule performance to date and its future plans. This information will help SC determine that the NCSX Project is meeting the SC project performance goals, and provide recommendations to address any issues you may discover.

The review shall be conducted on November 2 and 3rd, 2005, at PPPL. In carrying out its charge, the review committee should respond to the following questions:

1. Does the project performance information provided to date support the conclusion that the procurements for the modular coil winding forms and vacuum vessel assemblies are proceeding according to the August 2005 approved baseline cost and schedule?
2. Are there credible mechanisms in place for evaluating and resolving past and future project risks, including technical issues and changes, which have or may arise?
3. Are the project's cost and schedule estimates credible and realistic for this stage of the project? Do they include adequate cost and schedule contingency? Is the contingency based on a thorough risk-based analysis?
4. Is the work that PPPL has decided to do "in-house" the best value for the government?
5. Is the Integrated Project Team appropriately staffed and functioning as defined in DOE Order 413.3 and the Project Execution Plan? Is the plan for augmenting the labor staff adequate to meet the project's objectives?

Barry Sullivan, NCSX program manager, will work closely with you as necessary to plan and carry out this review. I would appreciate receiving your Committee's report within 30 days of the conclusion of the review. This review will play an important role in ensuring that the NCSX project can be completed on cost and schedule. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Barry at 3-8438.

cc:

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