

October 21, 2003

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

FROM: N. Anne Davies, Associate Director for Fusion Energy
Sciences **(SIGNED)**

SUBJECT: Performance Baseline Readiness 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 readiness for setting performance baselines and proceeding to final design. This information will subsequently help SC evaluate the readiness of NCSX for Critical Decision 2 (CD-2), Establish Performance Baseline.

The review shall be conducted on November 18-20, 2003, at PPPL. In carrying out its charge, the review committee should respond to the following questions:

1. Is the preliminary design sound and likely to meet performance requirements? Are there credible plans in place for resolving any remaining technical issues? Are the risk management and value engineering approaches adequately addressed?
2. 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?
3. Is the Integrated Project Team in place and functioning as defined in DOE Order 413.3? Are management plans adequate?
4. Is the project ready to proceed to CD-2, Establish Performance Baseline?

Gene Nardella, 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 Gene at 3-4956.

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