



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

December 18, 2023

Professor Sally Seidel
University of New Mexico
Department of Physics and Astronomy
210 Yale Boulevard, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Dr. Seidel:

This letter requests that the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP) assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes and outcomes of High Energy Physics (HEP) Facilities Division in the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science. The review of HEP practices should be conducted in accordance with Guidance for DOE Office of Science COV Reviews, which was issued by the Deputy Director for Science Programs in April 2021.

The COV subcommittee should be charged by HEPAP to assess the operations of HEP Facilities Division during fiscal years 2016 through 2022. As noted in the Guidance, the core COV charge components are to:

- Assess the efficiency and quality of the processes used during the past six years, to solicit, review, recommend, document, and propose actions, and to monitor active awards, projects, and programs.
- Within the boundaries defined by the DOE mission and available funding, comment on how the award process affected the quality of portfolio elements and the resulting portfolio as a whole, including breadth and depth as well as the national and international standing of the portfolio.

Additional specific subjects that this COV should address are:

- The HEP Facilities Division has carried out extensive work to implement the recommendations of the 2014 Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel report. The COV should comment on the effectiveness of the HEP implementation of these recommendations and whether priorities are being reasonably maintained.
- Assess progress in addressing the recommendations of the previous (2016) COV.
- Identify any significant issues that the COV is not able to appropriately consider within the limited timespan of this review but deserve subsequent consideration.

In addition to these, any comments on the observed strengths or weaknesses in any component or sub-component of the HEP Facilities Division portfolio, along with suggestions for improvement as appropriate, would be appreciated. Additional specific areas where COV findings and comments are requested may be conveyed to you directly by the Associate Director for HEP.

HEP activities under review include: The Large Hadron Collider operations subprogram, Fermilab Accelerator Complex Operation subprogram including the supporting detector and computing operations, the Sanford Underground Research Facility cooperative agreement, the Rubin Observatory, Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument, LUX-ZEPLIN experiment (dark matter direct detection experiment and Super (Cryogenic Dark Matter Search) operations programs, Facility for Advanced Accelerator Experimental Tests (at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory) (FACET) and FACET II user facilities. In accordance with the Guidance, COV members will be given access to all program documentation completed during the period under review, including applications, proposals, review documents, and other relevant documentation.

COV members may request, at their discretion and according to their criteria, that a representative sample of the program portfolio be provided. In response, the program may suggest a sample of actions, including new, renewal, and supplemental applications and proposals, awards, and declinations. In addition, the COV members may also choose to review files through a random selection process. COV members will have access to interim and final reports upon request.

The Chair of the COV should work with the DOE HEP office to enable the COV meeting to take place sometime in the range of March to May on dates that are available to all members. The results of this review should be documented in a report with findings, comments, and recommendations clearly articulated. This report should be presented to HEPAP for their review and approval in a timely fashion.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to take on these important activities, and we look forward to your final report concerning these important tasks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Asmeret Asefaw Berhe".

Asmeret Asefaw Berhe
Director, Office of Science