The Under Secretary for Science
Washington, DC 20585

March 26, 2026

Dr. Persis Drell
Chair
Office of Science Advisory Committee

Dear Dr. Drell:

A major component of the Office of Science (SC) mission involves planning, constructing, and operating world-leading research facilities. With its stewardship of 28 scientific user facilities, serving over 43,000 users annually, SC is unique in both the federal science and technology ecosystem and the global scientific community. SC user facilities host a broad array of major scientific tools and unique technical capabilities. These range from the most powerful microscopes and nanoprobes for studying atomic-level structures of new materials and biomolecules to the world's highest performing and most capable supercomputers for running experiments autonomously with artificial intelligence and for modeling fundamental processes of subatomic particles.

The process SC employs to identify new or upgraded facilities has been facilitated by input from the scientific community for over four decades. In 2023, SC, through the then-existing program specific advisory committees, gathered community input to identify which new or upgraded facilities would best serve their communities' needs over the next decade. The committees were asked to assess these potential construction projects with respect to two criteria: 1) potential to contribute to world-leading science and 2) readiness for construction. Note that each of the proposed facilities/upgrades that were considered in this assessment had an estimated construction cost over $100M and that the list of projects considered did not include many of the activities that were already underway.

For consideration in this charge, a summary of the proposed facilities/upgrades considered in the 2023 assessment is appended. For completeness, the document has been augmented to include the status of ongoing facility construction/upgrades that were not included in the original assessment. And, recognizing the evolution of the fields since 2023, additional proposed facilities/upgrades identified by the programs were added.

I am asking the SC Advisory Committee (SCAC) to form a subcommittee to review the summary of proposed facilities and upgrades, identify any gaps, and then prioritize the new or upgraded facilities that are most crucial to the needs of the nation for the next ten years (2026-2036) and bring that report to the SCAC for consideration. In addition to delivering world-leading scientific capabilities for SC missions, the prioritization should consider how the proposed facilities integrate with and support the

Genesis Mission for artificial intelligence and quantum information sciences, as well as other Administration priorities in fusion, microelectronics, biotechnology, and discovery science.

It may facilitate the work of the advisory committee to consider prioritization in the context of budget opportunities. For example, if either $2B, $4B, or $6B is available for proposed new facilities and upgrades over the next decade, what would be the highest priority facilities to include?

I look forward to hearing your findings and thank you for your help with this important task. I will appreciate receiving an interim report by July 2026 and a final report by December 2026.

Thank you again for advising the Office of Science in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Darío Gil

Darío Gil
Under Secretary for Science

Enclosure:
Facilities List