

Origin of the NRC Review of the DOE Plan for U.S. Fusion Community Participation in the ITER Program

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*Committee to Review the U.S. ITER Science Participation Planning Process
Patrick L. Colestock, Chair*

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Outline

- Origin of the Study
- Timeline
- Mike Zarnstorff will talk about the committee, its charge and activities, and the resulting findings and recommendations.

Origin of the Study (1)

From Congress to DOE...

- The development of a plan for the participation of the U.S. fusion community in the ITER program was mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct).
 - Two parts:
 - (1) DOE drafts the plan and submits it to Congress and requests a review by the NRC
 - (2) The NRC reviews the plan
- In Section 972 (c)(4)(A) of the EPAAct of 2005, Congress directed that DOE, in consultation with the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee, . . . develop a plan for the participation of United States scientists in ITER that shall include:
 - (i) the United States research agenda for the ITER;
 - (ii) methods to evaluate whether the ITER is promoting progress toward making fusion a reliable and affordable source of power; and,
 - (iii) a description of how work at the ITER will relate to other elements of the United States fusion program.

Origin of the Study (2)

From DOE to the USBPO and back to DOE...

- February 2006: DOE asked the U.S. Burning Plasma Organization (USBPO) to develop the mandated plan.
- June 2006: The USBPO completed *Planning for U.S. Fusion Community Participation in the ITER Program*. Available at http://www.ofes.fusion.doe.gov/News/EPAct_final_June06.pdf.
- August 2006: DOE submitted the plan to Congress and the NRC.

Origin of the Study (3)

From DOE to the NRC...

- After completion of the plan, the EPAct, in Sec. 972 (c)(4)(B), directed DOE to request an external review of its content by the NRC.
- The DOE Under Secretary for Science submitted the plan to Congress and the NRC on August 10, 2006. In response, the NRC organized the *Committee to Review the ITER Science Participation Planning Process (CRISPPP)* to review the DOE plan.

NRC Timeline

- August 10, 2006: DOE plan received by the NRC.
- February 9, 2007: Proposal submitted by the NRC to DOE to conduct the review, after negotiating the statement of task.
- June 15, 2007: Grant received from DOE.
- December 14-15, 2007: CRISPPP meets in Washington, DC.
- July 29, 2008: NRC report is released to the public and DOE and Congress are briefed.

Thank You