

Discussion of the Committee of Visitors Charge



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

July 23, 2012

Dr. Donald Geesaman
Chair
DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Dr. Geesaman:

This letter requests that the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science's Office of Nuclear Physics program. The panel should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs for both the DOE laboratory and university programs.

The panel should assess the operations of the Office's programs during the fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012. The panel may examine any files from this period for all actions administered by the program for the period under review, including funding at national laboratories, universities, and other activities handled by the program. The panel should consider and provide evaluation of the following major elements:

- (a) the efficacy and quality of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, monitor, and document application, proposal, and award actions; and
- (b) the quality of the resulting portfolio, including its breadth and depth, and its national and international standing.

In addition to these findings, comments on observed strengths or deficiencies in any component or sub-component of the Office's portfolio and suggestions for improvement would be very valuable. The panel should also comment upon what progress has been made towards addressing action items from the previous COV review. You should work with the Associate Director of Science for Nuclear Physics to establish the processes and procedures so as to enable the first COV meeting to take place before the end of January 2013. The results of this assessment should be documented in a report with findings, comments, and recommendations clearly articulated; the report should be submitted to NSAC by March 15, 2013.

2

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 black ink, appearing to read 'W. F. Brinkman', written in a cursive style.

W. F. Brinkman
Director, Office of Science

cc:
Edward Seidel, NSF
Bradley Keister, NSF

Draft Charge from NSAC to COV

Prof. John Harris
Department of Physics
Yale University
268 Whitney Ave ·
PO Box 208120 ·
New Haven · CT · 06520 - 8120

Dear John,

As you know Dr. William Brinkman, Director of the Office of Science at the Department of Energy (DOE), has charged NSAC to establish a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes of the DOE Office of Science's Office of Nuclear Physics. The committee should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs for both the DOE laboratory and university programs.

I am writing to formally ask you to serve as the Chair of an NSAC subcommittee to consider this charge and report back to NSAC. The work of this COV is of great importance for the future of nuclear science. Previous COV reports were issued in 2004, 2007 and 2010. Such COV serve a valuable purpose in assessing the management of key areas of the country's research portfolio.

The charge, of which you have a copy, asks that the report be submitted to NSAC by March 15, 2013. It is expected that the site visit will take place during the week of January 7-11, 2013. I anticipate scheduling an NSAC meeting in early March and I would like to ask you to make a presentation on the findings of the COV. The report will need to be sent to me for distribution to NSAC in sufficient time before the NSAC meeting to ensure that the NSAC membership has time to read and reflect on your report.

I realize this task places an extra burden on you. I and our whole community very much appreciate your willingness to take on this task. I therefore want to take the opportunity to express to you and to the sub-committee in advance my thanks for what you are doing. I will be available to help you in any way I can and I will serve on the COV in an ex officio capacity.

Sincerely yours,

Donald F. Geesaman
Chair, Nuclear Science Advisory Committee

Partial COV Membership

John Harris , (Chair)
Ani Aprahamian,
Joe Arango ,
Kelly Beierschmitt,
Jeff Blackmon,
Elizabeth Beise,
Latifa Elouadrhiri,
Paul Fallon,
Alexandra Gade,
Don Geesaman,
Susan Gardner,
Kate Jones,
Josh Klein,
Reiner Kruecken,
Berndt Mueller,
Michael Pennington,
Mathias Grosse PerdeKamp,

Yale University
Notre Dame
TJSO
ORNL
LSU
Maryland
JLab
LBNL
MSU
ANL
Kentucky
Tennessee
Pennsylvania
TRIUMF
Duke
JLab
Illinois

5 NSAC Members

Still waiting for responses from several others, especially for operations expertise.