



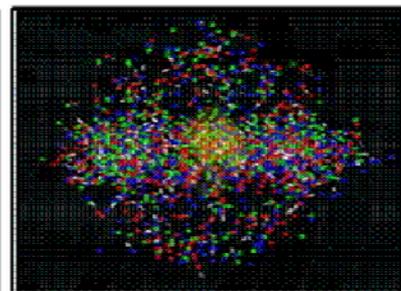
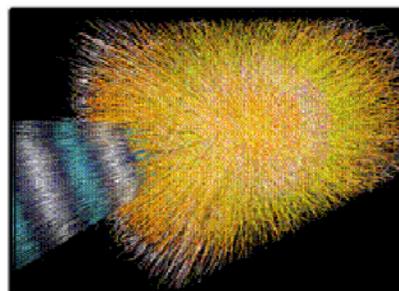
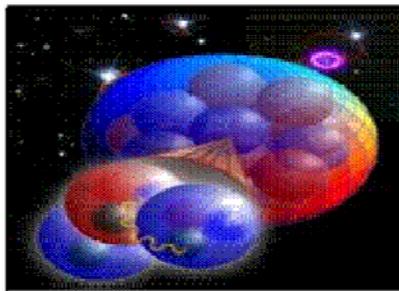
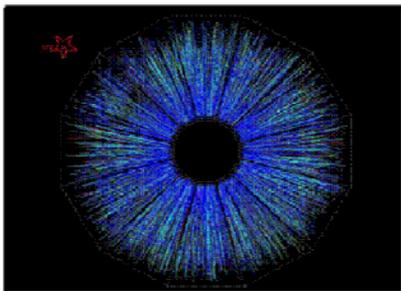
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science

Discussion of NP COV

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Main Elements of the NP COV Charge

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.



The task of the Committee of Visitors

For both DOE laboratory and university programs and projects

- Assess the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of:
 - the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions
 - the monitoring of active projects and programs

Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding

- Assess the quality of the resulting portfolio including
 - the breadth and depth of the Nuclear Physics portfolio elements
 - the national and international standing of the portfolio elements.

Comment on:

- observed strengths or deficiencies in any component or sub-component of the Office's portfolio and opportunities for improvements
- progress made towards addressing action items from the previous COV Review.



The task of the Committee of Visitors

Breath and Depth of Program's Portfolio Elements

Some Relevant questions:

- The overall quality of science
- The appropriateness of award scope, size, and duration
- The evolution of the portfolio with respect to new investigators and science opportunities
- The balance of projects with respect to innovation, risk and interdisciplinary research
- Long term goals of the NP office (tracked by OMB)

National and International Standing of the Program's Portfolio Elements

Some relevant questions:

- The uniqueness, significance, and scientific impact of the portfolio;
- The stature of the portfolio principal investigators in their fields;
- The leadership position of the portfolio in the nation and the world.



Outcomes of the Previous NP COV Charge

COV Reports are submitted to the Office of Science, and posted, along with the SC Program's response on the SC web site.

Report of the last COV in 2010 may be found at:

http://science.energy.gov/~media/sc-2/pdf/cov-np/np_cov_2010_report.pdf

Action plan in response to the last COV may be found at:

http://science.energy.gov/~media/sc-2/pdf/cov-np/np_cov_2010_response.pdf

Comments or suggestions on any aspect are welcome and probably most appropriately made to Don Geesaman or the COV Chair

