



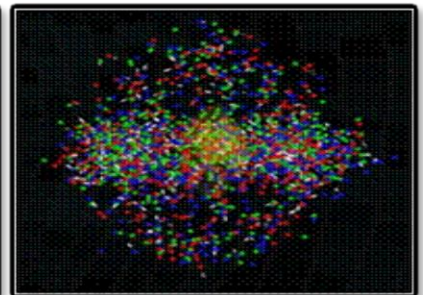
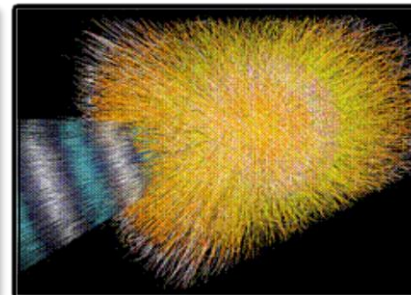
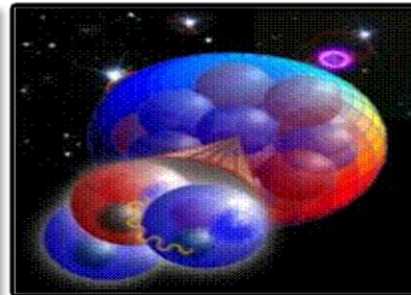
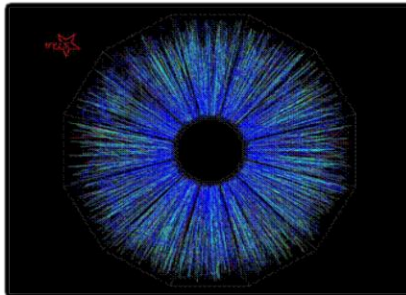
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science

DOE NP Committee of Visitors (COV) Charge

NSAC Meeting
November 2, 2018

Dr. T. J. Hallman
Associate Director for Nuclear Physics
DOE Office of Science



FY2019 NP COV Charge

Professor David Hertzog
Chair
DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee
Department of Physics
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Dear Professor Hertzog:

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 (NP). 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 2016, 2017, and 2018. 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 NP subprograms. 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.



FY2019 NP COV Charge

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 the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics to establish the processes and procedures. 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 summer of 2019.

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,

J. Stephen Binkley
Deputy Director for Science Programs
Office of Science

cc:
Anne Kinney, NSF
Allena Oppen, NSF

Office of Nuclear Physics (Responsibilities/Objectives)

What does the Office of Nuclear Physics Do to Achieve its Mission and Address Challenges?

To carry its Mission the Office needs to identify the scientific opportunities, secure and direct resources to develop and use the research and technical capabilities to successfully address these opportunities and advance our knowledge of nuclear physics. This involves:

Strategic Planning:

Objective: To position the U.S. to remain at the forefront and maintain a world-leadership role in nuclear physics through effective strategic planning

Budget Formulation:

Objective: To formulate, justify and defend a Nuclear Physics budget that maintains an optimally productive, sustainable program that addresses the scientific priorities within funding constraints

Budget Execution (“Program Management”):

Objective: To manage and administer an effective program to produce significant results in fundamental nuclear physics research.



Office of Nuclear Physics (Budget Execution/"Program Management")

- Allocate funding to Universities and Federal Laboratories so as to provide the resources and oversight needed to achieve planned expectations
- Establish planning/management processes to monitor and document performance and ensure quality
- Ensure quality and merit of research projects by competitive selection and peer-review of all new university research proposals using guidelines in 10 CFR 605 and similar guidelines for laboratory research projects and for allocation of beam time at user facilities
- Evaluate through performance reviews, the productivity, effectiveness and efficiency of the operations and research programs at its facilities
- Oversee and monitor progress of construction and fabrication of projects to ensure that milestones are met and that any needed corrective actions are implemented



DOE NP Program Breadth and Depth/National & International Standing of Portfolio*

Breadth 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 science opportunities and new investigators
- The balance of projects with respect to innovation, risk and interdisciplinary research
- Long term goals of the NP office

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.

* SC is the “owner” of 10 FFRDCs and a substantial fraction of the NP portfolio is at these laboratories. The rules for federal assistance differ for universities and FFRDCs but NP has attempted to make the peer review and selection processes as similar as possible for awards to these sectors