



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 20, 2009

Dr. Susan Seestrom
Chair
DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dear Dr. Seestrom:

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 2007, 2008, and 2009. 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.

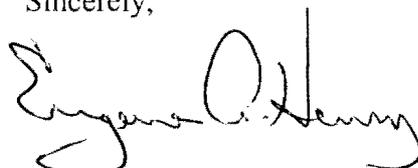
In addition to these findings, comments on observed strengths or deficiencies in any component or sub-component of the Office's portfolio and suggestions for improvement would be very valuable. Since the Isotope Development and Production for Research and Applications subprogram was transferred to the Office recently with the 2009 Appropriation, only management activities related to the transfer should be considered by this COV, and strengths and deficiencies



in the subprogram should be a subject for future COV reviews. 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 the 2009 calendar year. 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 February 28, 2010.

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 "Eugene A. Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "H".

Eugene A. Henry
Acting Associate Director of Science
for Nuclear Physics

cc:
Brad Keister, NSF
Joseph Dehmer, NSF