



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 4, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. BRINKMAN
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF SCIENCE

FROM: DANIEL B. PONEMAN

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. B. Poneman", written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: Management of U.S. International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Project

The purpose of this memorandum is to remove the subject project's designation as a capital asset project as defined by DOE Order 413.3B. Nevertheless, you are responsible to the extent practical to apply the Department's project management policies, principles, and processes to efficiently and effectively accomplish the U.S. ITER goals.

The ITER Project is being executed by an international collaboration of seven members consisting of the U.S., Russia, Korea, Japan, India, China, and the European Union to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy. The U.S. Government has committed, as a party to the ITER Joint International Agreement, to design, fabricate, and deliver in-kind hardware and provide cash contributions in support of this major international fusion project.

The U.S. ITER Project, established by the Office of Science (SC) to deliver the U.S. commitments, faces daunting technical, organizational, and fiscal challenges. However, the U.S. Government is not responsible for ITER project integration, system engineering, safety basis and licensing, civil construction, commissioning, and a host of hardware components to be provided by other members of the international collaboration. The ultimate owner is the ITER Organization located at the facility's site in Caderache, France. Therefore, the U.S. ITER Project does not fit the definition of a capital asset project.

The Office of Science has a proven record of successfully delivering complex projects, including critical contributions to other international science facilities. I commend SC, the U.S. ITER Project, and the Office of Acquisition and Project Management for their efforts in applying, to the extent practical, the Department's project management policies, principles, and processes. While you should continue to follow the essential project management principles underpinning DOE's project management system, I recognize that significant tailoring of requirements for the U.S. ITER Project's decision-making, baseline management, independent review, and reporting is necessary to efficiently and effectively accomplish the project goals.

I have confidence that SC will continue to manage the U.S. commitments in support of ITER, consistent with your demonstrated performance in the management of your capital asset project portfolio. We will continue to rely on your commitment to effective project management to advance the Department's mission and benefit the American people.

