Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

MAR 2 0 2015

Dr. Roscoe Giles, ASCAC Chair
Department of Electrical and Computer
Engineering
Boston University
8 St. Mary's Street
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Dr. Giles:

Thank you for the excellent Committee of Visitors (COV) review of the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program. The Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) has already undertaken changes to respond to the recommendations of the COV and improve the management of this important program. The full program response and action plan is posted on the ASCAC website (http://www.sc.doe.gov/ascr/ASCAC/Reports.html).

To help the research communities make efficient and effective use of current and future computing capabilities, ASCR also supports a basic research program in Networking. To ensure the integrity of this research program, I am asking the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) to assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes for the Next Generation Networking for Science (NGNS) elements of the ASCR program. A report will be expected at the November 2015 ASCAC meeting.

The COV should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs. The Committee should assess the operations of the Networking programs during the fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. The panel may examine any files from this period for both DOE laboratory projects and university projects. The Committee will be provided with background material on the program prior to the meeting.

I would like the Committee to consider and provide evaluation of the following two major program elements:

1. For both the DOE laboratory projects and the university projects, assess the efficacy and quality of the processes used to:
    (a) solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions, and
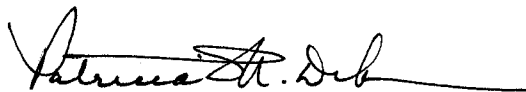   (b) monitor active projects and programs.

2. Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected:
    (a) the breadth and depth of portfolio elements, and
    (b) the degree to which the program is anticipating and addressing emerging challenges from large-scale scientific facilities and collaborations in support of the DOE missions, and
    (c) the national and international standing of the program with regard to other computer science research programs that are also focused on high performance networking tools and middleware for science.

If you, or the COV chair, have any questions, please contact Christine Chalk, Designated Federal Official for ASCAC at 301-903-5152 or by e-mail at christine.chalk@science.doe.gov.

I appreciate ASCAC's willingness to undertake this important activity.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Dehmer
Acting Director
Office of Science