



## Under Secretary for Science

Washington, DC 20585

June 26, 2007

Dr. Jill Dahlburg, Chair, ASCAC  
Naval Research Laboratory, Code 1001  
4555 Overlook Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20375

Dear Dr. Dahlburg:

I am charging the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) to assess the strategic priorities of the Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) program, focusing on the balance between the "core" research efforts and high performance computing facilities and on the balance between more immediate research needs of current scientific applications and the long-term investments necessary to effectively utilize the high performance systems of the future.

The ASCR program is delivering leadership computing facilities and advanced networks critical to advancing scientific applications and Department of Energy missions. In that role, ASCR is an enabling partner to the other research programs of the Office of Science and, through INCITE, to American competitiveness. But ASCR also plays a critical role in advancing the underlying applied mathematics, computer science, and advanced network research necessary to effectively utilize the computing and network resources of the future. Because success is often built upon a decade or more of research effort, it is vital for ASCR to carefully balance investments in facilities and research and, within research, to balance the immediate needs of program partners with the long-term investments necessary for sustained progress.

In order to influence funding decisions in ASCR, I would like a full report on findings and recommendations of the ASCAC by the February 2008 meeting. I appreciate ASCAC's willingness to undertake this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond L. Orbach".

Raymond L. Orbach

