



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 8, 2000

Dr. Keith O. Hodgson
Director, Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory
Department of Chemistry
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Dr. Hodgson

The Office of Science is currently developing its priorities for the FY 2002 budget. It is important that we do this with an understanding of the strengths of our current programs and of the role that they play in the broader scientific community. I would, therefore, like BERAC's views on several key questions regarding the BER program.

First, what is the overall quality of the BER program, its various subdiscipline areas, and its facilities, relative to the best-in-class science in the U.S. and internationally?

Second, how does the research and facilities funded by BER relate and contribute to Departmental mission needs?

Third, how does the BER program interface with and complement other programs across the Federal government? It would be very helpful if BERAC would provide specific examples of interagency interactions across the BER program, including an evaluation of the importance and success of these interactions.

Finally, how would BERAC prioritize the new scientific opportunities within the purview of the BER program?

At a minimum, please include the following programs (and any others that you think should be singled out) in your evaluation: genomics -- human and microbial; structural biology; low dose radiation research; global change; bioremediation; molecular nuclear medicine; biomedical engineering; carbon sequestration; and the Environmental and Molecular Sciences Laboratory.

A letter report by early January would be most helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mildred S. Dresselhaus".

Mildred S. Dresselhaus
Director
Office of Science

