



Department of Energy  
Office of Science  
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

December 21, 2015

Professor John C. Hemminger  
Chair, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee  
Professor of Chemistry  
Aldrich Hall 160  
University of California, Irvine  
Irvine, California 92697

Dear Professor Hemminger:

Thank you very much for your continuing service to the Office of Science and the scientific communities that it serves as the Chair of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC). In particular, thank you for your recent outstanding work on the BESAC report, *Challenges at the Frontiers of Matter and Energy: Transformative Opportunities for Discovery Science*. This report provides crucial advice to BES on the breakthrough potential of current and prospective energy science frontiers toward transformative impacts for science and society. As the new report notes, enabling success in seizing the transformative opportunities and in meeting the grand challenges will require targeted investments from BES in areas that include instrumentation and tools, and specifically in the world-leading large-scale user facilities that BES supports. I need your help now in this connection.

I am writing to present a new charge to BESAC, related to the prioritization of upgrades of existing user facilities and major construction projects for new user facilities. This charge is directed by the 2016 Omnibus appropriation for BES that stated:

*Since the February 2013 and the July 2013 Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC) studies of BES facilities, the mix and status of ongoing and prospective BES major facility upgrades and construction projects have changed. Therefore the BESAC is directed to update its assessment of the proposed upgrades to x-ray scattering facilities (both free-electron laser-based sources and ring-based sources) and to the Spallation Neutron Source using the same criteria that were used in prior studies-the ability of a proposed upgrade or construction project to contribute to world leading science and the readiness of the upgrade or construction project to proceed to construction-and the same rating system. The assessment shall include a prioritization of the next three to five projects and be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.*



The following are the two criteria to be considered in your evaluation:

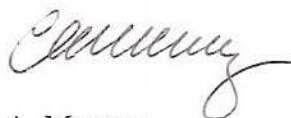
1. The ability of a proposed facility or upgrade to contribute to world-leading science, noting in particular the relevance to the 2015 BESAC report “Challenges at the Frontiers of Matter and Energy: Transformative Opportunities for Discovery Science.” Activities will be placed in one of three categories:(a) absolutely central; (b) important; and (c) don’t know enough yet.
2. The readiness to proceed to construction, noting whether the concept has been thoroughly studied, the R&D performed to date is sufficient, the technical challenges can be met, and the extent to which the cost to build and operate the facility is understood. Concepts will be placed in one of three categories: (a) ready to initiate construction; (b) significant scientific/engineering challenges to resolve before initiating construction; and (c) mission and technical requirements not yet fully defined.

Three categories of facilities are to be considered in the prioritization:

- **Free electron laser based x-ray light sources**
  1. SLAC LCLS-II High Energy Upgrade (LCLS-II-HE) (i.e., additional cryomodules in existing tunnel)
- **Ring-based x-ray light sources**
  1. ANL Advanced Photon Source Upgrade (APS-U)
  2. LBNL Advanced Light Source Upgrade (ALS-U)
- **Spallation based neutron scattering sources**
  1. ORNL Spallation Neutron Source Proton Power Upgrade (SNS PPU)
  2. ORNL Spallation Neutron Source Second Target Station (SNS STS)

I would appreciate receiving a written report by June 30, 2016.

Sincerely,



C. A. Murray  
Director, Office of Science