

November 13, 2000

Professor Richard D. Hazeltine, Chair
Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee
Institute for Fusion Studies, RLM 11.218
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712

Dear Professor Hazeltine:

A year ago, FESAC completed its review of the restructuring of the Fusion Energy Sciences program and submitted its report on the priorities and balance in the program. After a year, and the recent review by the National Research Council, I would like to ask FESAC views on several strategic questions for the fusion program.

First, are the priorities and thrust areas called out in the September 1999 Priorities and Balance report still valid for this program? Is the strategic vision for five years out still valid? Are the five-year goals for each thrust area still valid? Does the Integrated Program Planning Activity report provide a guide for how to achieve the five-year vision?

Second, I would like to have FESAC reaction to the draft NRC report. Are the findings and recommendations consistent with the priorities of the program as seen by FESAC? If not, what are the inconsistencies? Are any changes in direction called for now, in light of either the NRC report or scientific and technical results in the program?

Third, please compare the U.S. fusion program with fusion programs abroad. Given the contraction of the program, are we still among the world leaders in fusion science? Are we capable of responding quickly to breakthroughs in fusion research abroad?

A letter report by mid December would be sufficient.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mildred S. Dresselhaus
Director
Office of Science