



U.S. Department of Energy
and the
National Science Foundation



October 4, 2019

Professor David Hertzog
Chair, DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee
Department of Physics
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Dear Professor Hertzog:

This letter is to request that, in accordance with direction given to the DOE in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2013, the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) standing Subcommittee on Mo-99 conduct its annual assessment of the effectiveness of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Material Management and Minimization (NNSA-MMM) Domestic Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) Program (formerly known as the Global Threat Reduction Initiative).

The American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2012 (Act), formerly known as S. 99 and H.R. 3276, was incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2013. On January 2, 2013, President Obama signed the NDAA into law, enacting this legislation. A stipulation of the NDAA under section 3173 – *IMPROVING THE RELIABILITY OF DOMESTIC MEDICAL ISOTOPE SUPPLY* is that:

“...the Secretary [of Energy] shall...use the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee to conduct annual reviews of the progress made in achieving the [NNSA MMM] program goals and make recommendations to improve effectiveness.”

The Department of Energy (DOE) and National Science Foundation (NSF) very much appreciate NSAC's five previous assessments as described in reports transmitted to the agencies on May 8, 2014, July 30, 2015, November 3, 2016, March 19, 2018, and April 17, 2019.

We request that NSAC reconvene the Subcommittee to provide a sixth annual assessment addressing the following charge elements:

- What is the current status of implementing the goals of the NNSA-MMM Mo-99 Program? What progress has been made since the 5th NSAC assessment?
- Is the strategy for continuing to implement the NNSA goals complete and feasible, within an international context?
- Are the risks identified in implementing those goals being appropriately managed?
- Has the NNSA-MMM Program addressed concerns and/or recommendations articulated in the 2018/2019 NSAC assessment of the Mo-99 Program appropriately and adequately?



- What steps should be taken to further improve NNSA program effectiveness in establishing a domestic supply of Mo-99?

It is requested that this assessment be submitted by spring of 2020.

We are aware that this charge represents an additional burden on your time. However, the involvement of NSAC is essential to inform the Agency regarding the effectiveness of efforts to steward Mo-99, and isotope essential for the health and well-being of the Nation.

Sincerely,



Christopher Fall
Director
Office of Science



Anne L. Kinney
Assistant Director, Directorate for
Mathematical and Physical Sciences
National Science Foundation