



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



August 19, 2024

Professor Gail Dodge
Chair, DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee
College of Sciences
Old Dominion University
4600 Elkhorn Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23529

Dear Professor Dodge:

This letter requests that the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management processes of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science's Office of Nuclear Physics (NP) Facilities & Project Management Division (FD). The panel should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs for both the DOE laboratory and university programs.

The panel should assess the operations of the Office's FD program during the fiscal years 2019 through 2024. The panel may examine any files from this period for all actions administered by the program for the period under review, including funding at national laboratories, universities, and other activities handled by the NP FD. The panel should consider and provide evaluation of the following major elements:

- (a) the efficacy and quality of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, monitor, and document application, proposal, and award actions;
- (b) the efficacy and quality of the processes to monitor facility operations and active projects; and
- (c) the quality of the resulting portfolio, including its breadth and depth, and its national and international standing.

In addition to these findings, comments on observed strengths or deficiencies in any component or sub-component of the Division's portfolio and suggestions for improvement would be very valuable. The panel should also comment upon what progress has been made towards addressing action items related to NP FD from the previous COV review. You should work with the Associate Director of the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics to establish the processes and procedures. The results of this assessment should be documented in a report with findings, comments, and recommendations clearly articulated; the report should be submitted to NSAC for consideration in the Fall meeting in 2025.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to take on these important activities, and we look forward to your final report concerning these important tasks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harriet Kung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

Harriet Kung
Acting Director
Office of Science

cc:

Denise Caldwell, NSF

Allena Opper, NSF