



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



March 1, 2021

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 is to request that, in accordance with direction given to the Department of Energy (DOE) in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2013, 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 NDAA for FY 2013. 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 DOE and the National Science Foundation very much appreciate NSAC’s six previous assessments as described in reports transmitted to the agencies on May 8, 2014, July 30, 2015, November 3, 2016, March 19, 2018, April 17, 2019, and March 16, 2020.

We request that NSAC provide a seventh 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 6th 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 2019/2020 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 2021.

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,

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J. Stephen Binkley
Acting Director
Office of Science

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Sean Jones
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