

August 10, 1999

Professor Geraldine L. Richmond
Chair, Department of Chemistry
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1253

Dear Geri:

I very much appreciate your willingness to serve a second term as Chair of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC). I believe that the continuity in leadership that you will provide will be critical during the coming year as BESAC completes its study of the electron beam microcharacterization centers and begins its new activities. Under your leadership during the past year, BESAC activities have produced extraordinary results that already have -- and will continue to have -- broad impacts in the Basic Energy Sciences program. I especially want to acknowledge BESAC's help in the review of the programs and operations of the High Flux Isotope Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; the determination of the appropriate five-year R&D agenda for novel, coherent light sources ("4th generation" light sources); and the identification of the forefront of the physical and biophysical sciences in the area of complex systems through BESAC's help with the organization of and the participation in the workshop at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

During the coming year, I would like BESAC to advise me on the current status of the Advanced Light Source and to take on a new and continuing charge to oversee Committees of Visitors for the Basic Energy Sciences (BES) Program. I have provided an overview of each activity below. You should develop the detailed charges through discussions with the chair of the panel, committee, or workshop and the Associate Director of BES.

The first activity is a review of the Advanced Light Source to examine those issues that were raised by the BESAC Report on "DOE Synchrotron Radiation Sources and Science," known as the Birgeneau Report. In particular, BESAC should explore ALS's vision for the future, the quality and diversity of science programs at the facility, the user demand, and the interactions and relationship with the user community.

The second activity is the establishment of Committees of Visitors (COVs) through which BESAC can provide an assessment on a regular basis of matters pertaining to program decisions. COVs should review program management every three to four years on a rotating basis for major elements of the BES program selected by the Associate Director for BES. The COVs should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs. You should work with the Associate Director for BES to establish the processes and procedures for the first COV to occur in 2000.

I appreciate BESAC's willingness to take on these important activities, and I look forward to meeting with you and learning of your progress throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,

Martha A. Krebs
Director
Office of Science