

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

December 1, 1999

Dr. Martin Blume
Editor-in-Chief
American Physical Society
One Research Road, Box 1000
Ridge, NY 11961

Dear Dr. Blume:

The Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC) has been asked by Dr. Martha Krebs, Director, Office of Science, to assess the consequences of the shutdown of the High Flux Beam Reactor. She would like BESAC to advise the Office of Science on how best to use the neutron scattering resources available to the Nation's researchers and what, if any, changes should be made in the BES plans for the neutron facilities that it stewards. I am very grateful that you have agreed to chair this panel.

The purpose of this panel is to recommend steps to provide the best possible neutron scattering research capabilities in the United States in the near term. Panel deliberations should take into account the shutdown of the High Flux Beam Reactor at Brookhaven, and should assume that the Spallation Neutron Source at Oak Ridge will be completed and operational in a timely fashion. These steps should also provide a proper arrangement for the neutron scattering groups at Brookhaven to pursue forefront research programs, conditioned on their submitting a satisfactory long-term plan for these programs to the Department of Energy.

The following questions should be addressed:

1. What assets of the HFBR should be moved to other neutron scattering facilities in the U.S.? Include instruments, shielding, neutron guides, and other assets associated with HFBR that might be valuable to other neutron facilities. Which instruments would be most appropriate to be under the purview of and operated by BNL staff?
2. What should be the future of the Japanese collaboration with HFBR?
3. How does the permanent shutdown of HFBR affect the planned upgrades at HFIR?
4. Should new instruments and other upgrades be considered? If so, what kind and where? If more beam time can be made available, which is more important to the community -- more instruments or more time?

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I anticipate that you will want to assemble a panel, which will help in your deliberations. Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Dr. Iran Thomas and I each will provide you with names of suggested panel members. You should make the final selection, and you should feel free to add other names to the list of suggested names.

I am hopeful that the review can take place within the next few months and that your panel is able to present a final report to BESAC at its next meeting, which is scheduled for February 2000. You are invited to the February meeting to make the presentation of the panel's findings and recommendations. Alternatively, if you cannot attend the meeting, I ask that you designate a member of the panel to make the presentation.

Logistics for the meeting will be handled by Sharon Long of DOE's Office of Basic Energy Sciences. She can be reached at (301) 903-5565 or sharon.long@science.doe.gov. Travel expenses for you and non-Federal panel members will be reimbursed by DOE. Reimbursement for Federally employed panel members, including DOE laboratory staff, will be handled through their respective offices.

Sincerely,

/s/ by

Geraldine L. Richmond
Chair, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee