



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

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Office of the Director

Dr. Margaret Wright, Chairman
Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee
Computer Science Department
Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
New York University
251 Mercer Street
New York, NY 10012

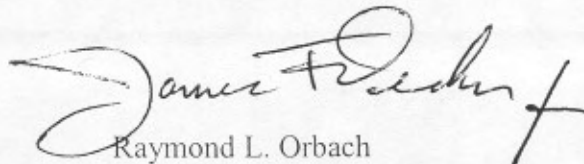
Dear Dr. Wright:

In an effort to continue to validate the effectiveness of the way that scientific research is managed in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science (SC), I am requesting that the SC research programs establish a formal Committee of Visitors (COV) program. The COV is to be convened under the authority of the relevant Federal Advisory Committee for each program area. The mission of the COV is: to evaluate how effectively the program adheres to the accepted policies, procedures and management of major program elements; and to provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs.

I am requesting that the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) develop a plan to establish a Committee of Visitors to regularly review the Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) Program. The entire ASCR program will be evaluated by a COV over a period of two years. The members of the COV will be chosen by ASCAC, and the COV will conduct its reviews in a manner described in the enclosure.

The plans and schedule for the COV should be finalized no later than September 1, 2003, and a COV evaluation of the first segment of the ASCR program should take place prior to the ASCAC meeting scheduled for March/April 2004.

Sincerely,


Raymond L. Orbach
Director

