



## Under Secretary for Science

Washington, DC 20585

December 22, 2008

Dr. Martin Greenwald, Chair  
Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee  
Plasma Science and Fusion Center  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
NW17-107  
175 Albany Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Dr. Greenwald:

The Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) program is entering a new era where its major focus will be on burning plasma research. In this new era, the centerpiece of both the FES program and the world's fusion programs is the construction and operation of the ITER facility in Cadarache, France. To ensure that the United States will be able to gain the maximum possible advantage from its investment in this exciting scientific opportunity, and to also ensure the success of the other key elements of our mission, the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) has begun the process of preparing a comprehensive strategic plan that will establish the specific goals and objectives that will guide the FES program during the next 15-20 years.

Preparation of this comprehensive strategic plan will be a multi-year, multi-step process. The Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC) is already playing a critical role in identifying FES's scientific challenges and opportunities. FESAC's reports on "Priorities, Gaps, and Opportunities: Towards a Long-Range Strategic Plan for Magnetic Fusion Energy" and "Toroidal Alternates" have already been completed. A similar FESAC report on "High Energy Density Laboratory Plasmas (HEDLP)" will be completed in a few months.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, in its report on the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2009, directed the Department to provide it with a report no later than March 1, 2009 that describes a credible plan for a world-leading United States fusion program.

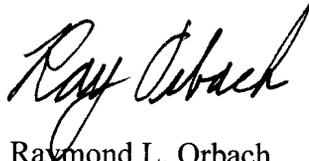
While this requested plan is not part of our ongoing strategic planning process, it is an opportunity to inform an important stakeholder of FES's long term vision. It is the Office of Science's intention to provide Congress with a Strategic Plan Overview that frames the mission, goals, and broad implementation strategies of the FES program during the next 15-20 years.

An outline of the Strategic Plan Overview was presented to FESAC at its November 6-7, 2008 meeting. As discussed at the meeting, OFES indicated that a draft of this plan would be provided to FESAC soon after the November meeting.



I would like FESAC to review the Strategic Overview Plan, and provide its comments to the Director of the Office of Science in a letter report format no later than January 23, 2009. OFES will then take into consideration the FESAC comments in its efforts to complete the Plan and provide it to Congress by the March 1, 2009 requested deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Orbach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond L. Orbach