

## REPORT of April 7th MEETING of the FFCC

A meeting of the Fusion Facilities Coordinating Committee was held at OFES on April 7<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Budget Planning Meeting. This was a short meeting as a follow up to the meeting in March. John Willis briefed us on three issues:

- Request from Beth Robinson for further information about the operations of our large facilities.
- Status of the Information Technology proposal and a proposed resolution.
- Reorganization of OFES.

After the briefing by John, we met in the Hampton Inn. At this meeting, the PAC chairmen and the DOE Program Managers were not present. Three topics were discussed at the meeting:

First, How to respond to Beth Robinson's request. At our previous meeting, we had identified the incremental costs required for "full two shift operation." We had also identified an intermediate case which relies largely on the present research staff but enables additional number of single shifts of operation. For the purposes of this discussion, these are called Options A and B. Ian, Martin and Tom will provide DOE information on the following by Wednesday:

Operations staff required for present run plans and Options A and B.

Number of researchers served presently. A researcher is defined as someone who is doing research at the facility for at least five days or is a co-author on a paper.

In our discussion, it became clear that for some groups upgrades were more important than additional run time to maintain the vitality of their program. Each group will write a short statement, based on their incremental budget request, describing what they would do with additional funding. This is background information for DOE.

The three groups felt strongly that all three facilities were valuable and doing different though complementary research. Study of high field and high density plasmas in regimes with  $T_e \sim T_i$  and current relaxation time short compared with the pulse duration on C-Mod addressed interesting advanced tokamak issues complementary to the broad program on DIII-D which is leading the U.S. tokamak program. Similarly, NSTX with its low aspect ratio magnetic geometry and innovative current formation techniques addresses new scientific issues not accessible in either DIII-D or C-Mod. Thus, the shortfall in operating funds to more fully operate the facilities should not be resolved by terminating operations on any facility.

Second, Status of plain English research goals. Prior to the meeting, a composite document of the research goals from the three facilities was assembled. At our meeting, a few changes were proposed. In particular, DIII-D would provide an additional goal associated with their work on transport barrier formation. NSTX would rewrite one of their goals into two separate goals on transport and confinement. Several useful suggestions were made on how to further improve the description of the research goals. It was realized that while we could go further in editing and re-editing the goals that would not be a good use of limited resources, at this time. During the next week, changes to the document should be sent to Rich and afterwards it will be sent to DOE. If further and/or more extensive revisions are requested by DOE, we will address them at that time.

Third, Tokamak White Paper. Tom had distributed prior to the meeting Version 11 of the Tokamak White Paper. Several of us had provided comments to Tom and he received additional input at the meeting. In general, there has been progress in developing the white paper and should be posted on the Web to obtain additional input.

The meeting adjourned after a long day.