United States Government
Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: March 11, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SC-10

SUBJECT: CNMS CD-4a Review

TO: Daniel R. Lehman, Director, SC-81

I am requesting your office to perform an on-site review of the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences (CNMS) project at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) on April 4-5, 2005. The purpose of the review is to assess the project's readiness to proceed to Critical Decision 4a (CD-4a), Approve Start of Initial Facility Operation as defined in the Project Execution Plan (PEP). The review committee is asked to assess the status of the project with respect to both the general prerequisites for CD-4a, and the CNMS Conventional Facilities Beneficial Occupancy definition, which was developed by the Federal Project Director.

In carrying out its charge, the Committee should respond to the following questions:

1. Is the CNMS Conventional Facility Beneficial Occupancy definition complete, and sufficient for start of initial facility operation? Will the CNMS facility have satisfied this definition by CD-4a? Does the facility have a plan for supporting research users in conducting BES programmatic (i.e., non-TPC funded) activities?

2. Is the CNMS project being managed properly and are the project's cost, schedule, and technical baselines consistent with the FY05 Project Data Sheet and the PEP? Does the plan for remaining procurements realistically support the schedule for project completion (CD-4b)? Does this plan include appropriate contingency (cost and schedule) for project completion?

3. Is there a Transitions to Operations Plan in place for CD-4a?

4. Are ES&H aspects being properly addressed given the project's current stage of development? Are Integrated Safety Management Principles being followed?

5. Has the project responded appropriately to recommendations from prior DOE/SC reviews?

Kristin Bennett, the NSRC Program Manager for CNMS, will serve as the Basic Energy Sciences point of contact for this review. I would appreciate receiving your committee's report within 60 days of the review's conclusion.

I wish to thank you in advance for agreeing to carry out this review. I look forward to receiving your committee's report.

Patricia M. Dehmer
Associate Director of Science
for the Office of Basic Energy Sciences

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