



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 27, 2021

Dr. Robert L. Hirsch
601 North Fairfax St, Unit 212
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Hirsch:

Thank you for your email letter of April 5, 2021, to Secretary Granholm regarding the U.S. fusion energy sciences program. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

In response to your suggestion for a utility/environmental review, please note the following: The Fusion Energy Sciences program is following the 2020 long-range plan *Powering the Future: Fusion and Plasmas*¹ from the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC). This plan was based on extensive community input and consensus.

The Fusion Energy Sciences program is also taking into consideration the recommendations in the 2019 report *A Strategic Plan for Burning Plasma Research*² from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and the follow-up study, *Bringing Fusion to the U.S. Grid*,³ on key goals and innovations for a U.S. fusion pilot plant (2021).

Thank you for your continued interest in the Fusion Energy Sciences program of the U.S. Department of Energy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Van Dam".

James W. Van Dam
Associate Director,
for Fusion Energy Sciences
Office of Science

¹ https://science.osti.gov/-/media/fes/fesac/pdf/2020/202012/DRAFT_Fusion_and_Plasmas_Report_120420.pdf

² <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/a-strategic-plan-for-us-burning-plasma-research>

³ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/key-goals-and-innovations-needed-for-a-us-fusion-pilot-plant>