



NNSA/HEDP Update



- **Major construction continues on track**
 - NIF complete Q2FY2009; first ignition experiment Q4FY2010
 - Z refurbishment complete FY2007; OMEGA EP FY2008
- **Ignition 2010 is a major NNSA and DOE commitment- managed via the National Ignition Campaign**
- **HEDP Task Force (reporting to Interagency Working Group on the Physics of the Universe) actively meeting- (next meeting- April 18th)**
- **NNSA in process of defining plan/policies regarding external use of “major” and “intermediate scale” NNSA facilities**
 - Please provide input to Prof. David Meyerhofer
 - FY2007 NNSA budget announced effort on “intermediate scale” machines



NNSA/HEDP Update (cont.)



- **High Energy Density Scientists Association (HEDSA) formed (D. Hammer, B. Afeyan)**
- **Z operations in the outyears will be an issue**
- **Plasma/materials interface also an issue for HEDP**



Secretary Bodman supports NIF and the ignition mission



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 18, 2005

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Dear Senator Domenici:

I want to follow up our recent phone conversation regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) national security programs and the role that the National Ignition Facility (NIF) and the Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrotest (DARHT) play in these programs. The DOE Stockpile Stewardship Program, including our scientific tools, is vital to the continued certification and assessment of the nuclear weapons stockpile without the need for underground nuclear testing. There are two projects in particular that I would like to highlight.

Proceeding with the National Ignition Facility is essential to the success of the Stockpile Stewardship Program. NIF is the only facility capable of creating the extreme conditions of temperature and pressure required for fusion ignition and other experiments that support stockpile stewardship. I visited the NIF site at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and I have concluded that NIF ignition and the experimental campaigns planned for NIF will yield vital data necessary to maintain our nuclear deterrent. NIF remains a top priority for the Department.

The DARHT Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory is another project that has my attention and support. I know DARHT is already producing results important to stockpile stewardship and that its capabilities will increase significantly when the two-axis hydrodynamic capability is established in Fiscal Year 2008. While there have been cost and schedule concerns at DARHT in the past, the Department is resolved to complete the project on the revised baseline.

Thank you for your continued support for these vital national security programs. I look forward to working with you to complete these important facilities. If you have any questions on these important DOE initiatives, please contact me or Ms. Jill Sigal, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Bodman



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