



Department of Energy

Office of Scientific and Technical Information

Post Office Box 62

Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

August 10, 2016

Re: OSTI-2016-01064-F

Dear Mr. Ravnitzky:

This is in final response to the request for information you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552 on June 22, 2016.

You requested a "copy of records, electronic, or otherwise, of each letter TO and FROM universities, companies, and organizations, from the OSTI 'cold fusion' documents collection." On July 11, 2016, you were emailed an interim response letter informing you of the need for OSTI to obtain release authorization from the Department of Energy. OSTI received notification to release the letters to you in their entirety on August 8, 2016. As a result, OSTI is releasing 72 cold fusion letters in this mailing on a CD-ROM because of the volume and file size of the PDFs.

In addition, there are approximately 13 letters that are currently being reviewed by the DOE's General Counsel Office (GC) for release or redaction. Upon receipt of guidance from GC, OSTI will release in whole or in part.

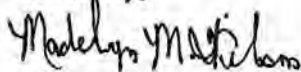
This decision, as well as the adequacy of the search, may be appealed within **90** calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. The appeal must contain all of the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either: 1) in the district where you reside; 2) where you have your principal place of business; 3) where DOE's records are situated; or 4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact OSTI's FOIA Public Liaison, Charlene Luther, Office of Preservation and Technology at 865.576.1138 or by mail at the Department of Energy, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer.

The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or about this letter, please contact Madelyn M. Wilson at

Sincerely,



Madelyn M. Wilson
FOIA Officer
DOE OSTI
1 Science.gov Way
Oak Ridge, TN 37830



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Cold Fusion
Department of Physics and Astronomy • 6127 Wilder Laboratory • TEL.: (603) 646-2359

May 21, 1993

Hon. Dick Swett
Room 230, Cannon House Office Bldg.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Swett:

I have been hearing that, in some recent committee hearings that you conducted in connection with Department of Energy appropriations, you seemed to be advocating transferring emphasis to cold fusion research and away from more mainstream approaches such as magnetic confinement. I do not have first hand confirmation that this has been your position, but for purposes of this letter I will assume that my information is correct.

As someone rather familiar with both subjects, and with all respect, I would like to suggest to you that this is not a tenable position to take up. As one who has spent the better part of his adult life on fusion research, I would be more than happy to advocate cold fusion as a subject to investigate if I could see any likelihood that it would lead anywhere. Unfortunately, I just don't see any grounds for doing so. Many laboratories in many countries have tried to duplicate the spectacular claims for the subject that were released to the world in the spring of 1989. None have had any success. This essential lack of reproducibility of the results is, in my experience, the surest giveaway that it isn't real science that we are dealing with there.

The situation with magnetic confinement is much different. It has been a long, hard road, and there were perhaps some decisions that one wishes had been made differently; but there is a world-wide network of investigators who, when they try to repeat each other's experiments, find that they get pretty much the same thing. Magnetic confinement research is not what Irving Langmuir called "pathological science," but there is every evidence that cold fusion research is. At the end of the day, it still seems to me to be

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overwhelmingly likely that magnetic confinement of a thermonuclearly reacting plasma is the proper path to pursue.

With all good wishes,

David Montgomery

David C. Montgomery

Kelvin Smith Professor of Physics

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