

JUN 16 1989

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter dated June 1, 1989, with the accompanying correspondence from Mr. George Hobby.

As you correctly point out, our Energy Research Advisory Board (ERAB) is examining recent disclosures pertaining to the "room temperature" fusion phenomena. Their report to Admiral Watkins, Secretary of Energy, is due November 15, 1989, with a preliminary report due July 31. I will be pleased to provide you with copies of these reports as soon as they become available.

As for the status of Mr. Joseph Newman's invention, I am referring your inquiry to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Energy, whose Energy-Related Inventions program is cognizant of matters related to that invention. You can expect to hear from them shortly.

Your inquiry is welcome. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*RS/*  
Robert O. Hunter, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Energy Research

bcc: ES/4, CP-30, ER-1/3, ER-2, ER-60, ER-61, ER-16, ER-622 (Forstl)  
ER-16:RGajewski:lh:6-9-89:3-5995  
Retyped:sn:6-13-89:6-5440

ER-16 R. 6.

Gajewski  
06/09/89

ER-10

Stevens  
06/11/89

ER-61/60

Mayhew/Adler  
06/17/89

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
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Sincerely,

Ryszard Gajewski, Director  
Division of Advanced Energy Projects  
Office of Basic Energy Sciences, ER-16

bcc: S  
DS  
US  
OS/Brown  
CP-1  
MA-1.22  
DO/4  
CE-1  
ER-10  
ER-60  
ER-61  
ER-622 (Fst1)

ES Ref#89-008182  
ER Ref#89-240

PREPARED BY: RGajewski/lh:ER-16:6/9/89:3-5995

CP-30

06/ /89

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM**

*6/16/89*

*1580*

CONTROL NO. ES-89-008182	ACTS NO.	DATE SENT 6/14/89	DATE DUE 6/16/89
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TYPE OF DOCUMENT/ADDRESSEE Response to Hon. John Dingell signed by FROM ER/Hunter <i>(INTERIM)</i>	SUBJECT Room Temperature Fusion
--	------------------------------------

TO	ACTION COPY TO	INFO COPY TO	TO	ACTION COPY TO	INFO COPY TO
THE SECRETARY (S)			POLICY AND EVALUATION (PE)		
DEPUTY SECRETARY (DS)			INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (IA)		
UNDER SECRETARY (US)			CONSERVATION & SOLAR ENERGY (CS)		
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CF)			NUCLEAR ENERGY (NE)		
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT (SA)			FOSSIL ENERGY (FE)		
THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (EA)			DEFENSE PROGRAMS (DP)		
DIR., OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (DOSE)			ENVIRONMENT (EV)		
PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PA)			RESOURCE APPLICATIONS (RA)		
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (LA)			ENERGY RESEARCH (ER)		
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (IR)			INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG)		
CONSUMER AFFAIRS (CA)			ADMINISTRATION (AD)		
GENERAL COUNSEL (GC)			CONTROLLER (CR)		
ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (EI)			PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS MGMT. (PR)		
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ADMIN. (RG)			EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EO)		
SPECIAL COUNSEL (SC)			MINORITY ECONOMIC IMPACT (MI)		
HEARINGS AND APPEALS (HG)			BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS (CB)		
CP/30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X			

ACTION REQUIRED (ES USE ONLY)		STAFF ACTION SUMMARY		
SIGNATURE	APPROVAL	OFFICE	NAME/INITIALS	DATE
		1		
		2		
X	CONCURRENCE "At Coordination Tab"	3	CP 33 <i>J. Hulse</i>	6/15
	COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS	4	CP-40 <i>J. Hulse</i>	6-15
	OTHER (SEE REMARKS)	5		
REMARKS:		6		
		7		
		8		
		9		
		10		
Please return your signed concurrence/nonconcurrence to MA/1.224 by the due date listed above. Thank you.		REMARKS: <i>excellent response for Interim Response</i>		
ES CONTACT: <i>Travis Hulse</i> , Desk IV 65075				



ewski  
09/89

10

Wens  
11/89

61/60

new/Adler  
11/89

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Director  
Office of Energy Research

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ER-10

ER-60

ER-61

ER-622 (Fst1)

PREPARED BY: RGajewski/lh:ER-16:6/9/89:3-5995

CP-30  
Fstl  
6/15



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 16, 1989

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter dated June 1, 1989, with the accompanying correspondence from Mr. George Hobby.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert O. Hunter, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name.

Robert O. Hunter, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Energy Research

cc:  
The Honorable Norman F. Lent  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL FORM  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ACTIVITY CHANGE DO NOT DETACH FROM ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE 14121  
SOURCE CODE CR CONSTITUENT REFERRAL

SPEC INT: CONTROL NO: ES89-008182  
E CORR: 05/01/89 DATE RECD: 06/06/89 DATE CNTRL: 06/06/89 DATE DUE: 06/30/89  
ER:  MEMO:  TWX:  OTHER:  TO: SECY:  DEP SEC:  UN SEC:  OTHER: ER

1 .DINGELL, JOHN D CHR MI O  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND  
COMMERCE  
HOBBY, GEORGE MI C

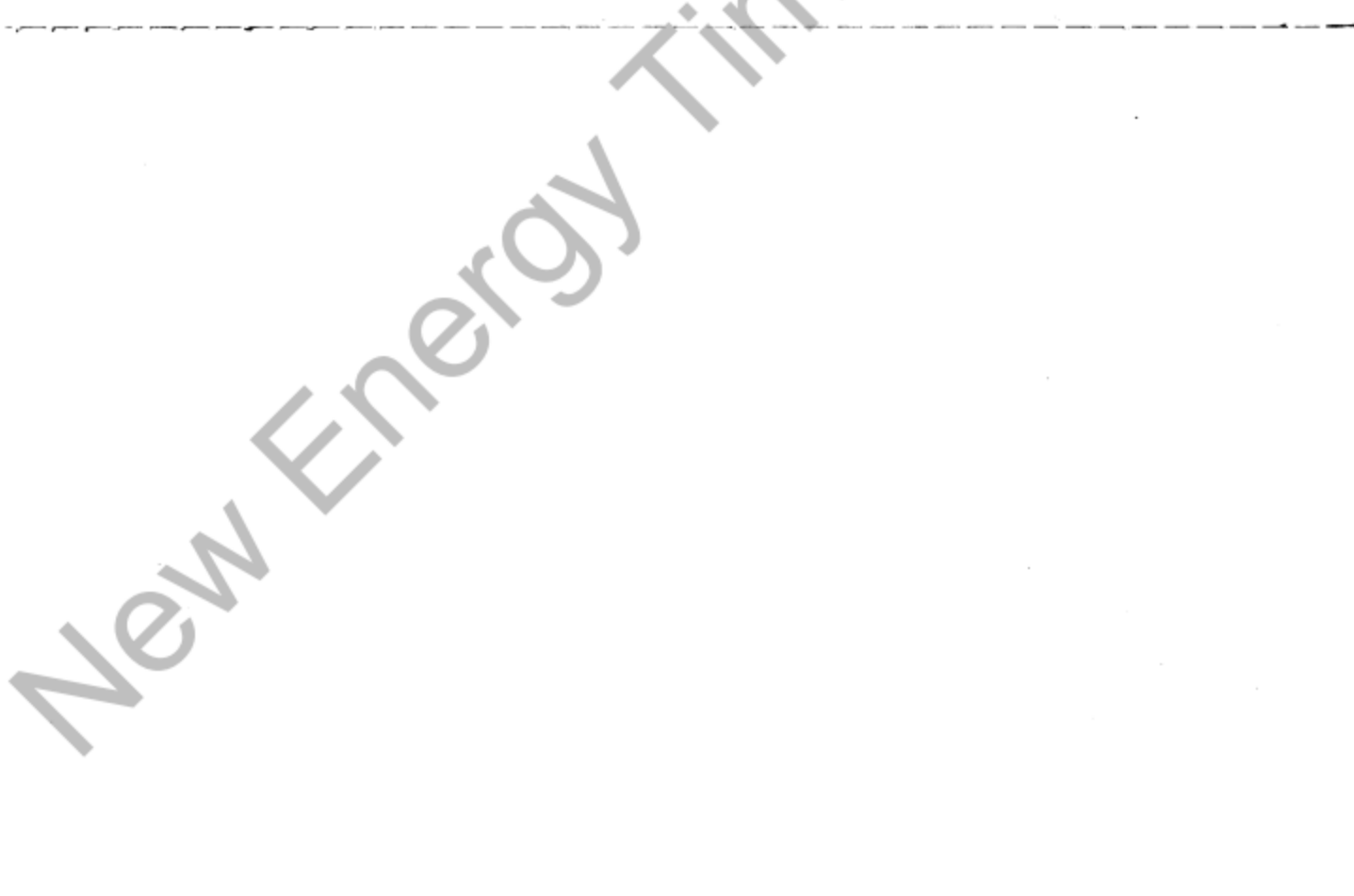
REMARKS: THIS IS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM.  
FINAL RESPONSE MUST REACH  
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
BY THE DUE DATE.

SUBJ: NUCLEAR  
FUSION  
REGARDING "ROOM TEMPERATURE"  
FUSION

FOR USE BY ACTION OFFICE ONLY			
ACTION REFERRED TO	DATE	RETURN TO	DUE DATE
1			
2			
3			

ACTION TO: ER TYPE ACTION: Coordinate and reply direct SIG OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
CONCURRENCE: CP30  
INFORMATIONS DS US OS/BROWN CP1 MA1.22 D04  
FILE CODE: CRDINGELL-ES89008182 CONTROL ANALYST: B. ATCHERSON...5075

**ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR FINAL PROCESSING**



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U.S. House of Representatives  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

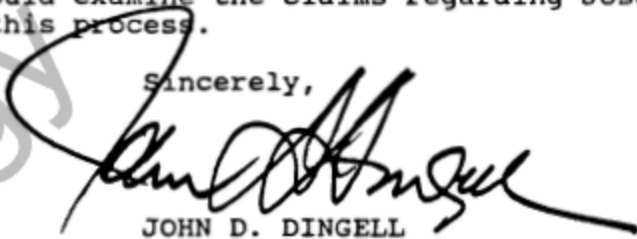
June 1, 1989

Dr. Robert O. Hunter, Jr.  
 Director  
 Office of Energy Research  
 Department of Energy  
 1000 Independence Avenue, S. W.  
 Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Dr. Hunter:

I am forwarding a constituent letter on "room temperature" fusion. As I understand it, efforts are being made through your Office and the Energy Research Advisory Board to examine the validities of the claims on "room temperature" fusion. I would appreciate it if you would examine the claims regarding Joseph Newman's invention in this process.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL  
 CHAIRMAN

Enclosures

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AR

Hon. John D. Dingell  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

RECEIVED

1989 MAY -3 AM 10:55

ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 24, 1989

Dear Mr. Dingell:

Here we go again. If the Patent Office waits until the physicists can fully explain "room temperature" fusion, the Japanese will get another most important jump on us through their more efficient "Government - Industry" cooperation.

Please review the enclosed. Although 30 scientists and/or engineers supported Joe Newman's positive findings, no-one could properly explain how his device worked so it "died" for ten years now. Newman may have discovered "room temperature" fusion but no-one recognized it; that is, could not really explain the astounding results obtained.

Mr. Newman may have died with a broken heart by now. I really don't know. In view of these latest developments his machine should be re-tested with qualified engineers in control and Mr. Newman on hand to see that his procedures are carried out, (assuming he has not left us.)

I trust you have the energy and interest to see that this is accomplished.

Sincerely,  
George W. Hotby  
9362 Owen Rd.  
Grosse Ile, Mich. 48138



JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

JAMES H. SCHEUER, NEW YORK  
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U.S. House of Representatives  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 1987

WM MICHAEL KITZMILLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. George W. Hobby  
 8310 Wetherfield Lane  
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

*Now*  
 9362 Owen Rd  
 Grasse Ile, Mich.  
 48138

Dear Mr. Hobby:

Thank you for your letter of July 25, 1987 regarding Joseph Newman's invention. As you are aware, I am always concerned with the issues surrounding cost-efficient energy and the possibilities suggested by Mr. Newman's discovery are certainly provocative. However, the procedure in which patents are issued falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary and not the Committee on Energy and Commerce. With that in mind, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to the Chairman of that Committee, Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

I appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns and if I can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to ask.

With every good wish.

Sincerely,

*To:*  
  
 JOHN D. DINGELL  
 CHAIRMAN

*It appears neither the Patent Office nor a District Judge shared your concerns. They have succeeded in keeping this matter on the back burner for 10 years. No wonder our country is slipping behind.*  
*G.W. Hobby*  
 4/24/89

# Fusion Energy Breakthrough?

Two weeks ago, physicists Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton in England claimed at an unusual press conference in Utah that they had successfully produced nuclear fusion at room temperatures. Within days, a second such discovery was announced by scientists at Brigham Young University, though with lower levels of output. The implications are little short of staggering.

Scientists have long known that nuclear fusion is potentially the world's most inexhaustible and safe energy resource. Nuclear fusion is the process of creating energy by binding atoms together; it powers the sun and the hydrogen bomb. The fuel for such reactions can easily be extracted from sea water and the reactions themselves yield very low levels of radioactivity and waste. This is in contrast to nuclear fission, the process of creating energy by splitting atoms apart that is used in existing nuclear reactors. Nuclear fission produces waste and high radioactivity levels.

Until the Utah announcements, it was widely believed that nuclear fusion could only be achieved by heating charged gases of hydrogen atoms to between 50 and 100 million degrees. The problem has been that this takes as much or more energy to achieve as fusion would produce. Nevertheless, the potential was so great that hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on government-supported nuclear fusion research.

Pons and Fleischmann began with experiments in their kitchen. They placed small rods of various nuclear material into a solution contained in ordinary lab beakers and ran a weak electric

current through it. The atoms began to fuse. The heat and energy discharges generated ranged from as little as 48 percent of the electric input to as much as 9.4 times the break-even point.

The physics establishment was naturally skeptical at news that scientists operating independently might have solved the problem of nuclear fusion. At least one prominent physicist dismissed the findings as "preposterous."

It wouldn't be the first time, however, that human genius manifested itself in such a fashion. The first breakthroughs in atomic power came in isolated experiments, not in the wartime Manhattan Project.

If the experiments hold up, we could be standing on the threshold of a new energy era. Oil prices will plummet as producers rush petroleum to the market before it's rendered obsolete for many purposes. Existing atomic power plants could be phased out. The auto industry could begin to talk seriously about electric-powered transportation — as the city of Los Angeles recently demanded.

Indeed, one of the most important things Pons and Fleischmann may have demonstrated is the foolishness of our 1970s energy policies. Massive, taxpayer-financed investments in coal-gasification, shale-oil conversion and synthetic fuel plants all failed to produce practical alternatives to oil. Yet, two lone scientists may well have broken through to tap a potentially infinite energy resource that is both clean and safe. It goes to show that ideas and imagination are still our most important sources of energy.

But to do our country any good they have to be acted upon and with some dispatch.

Even if the physicists cannot explain why it works, if it works then the Dept. of Energy should demand that red tape be cut and not allow a slow moving Patent Office or a District Judge to stand in the way of serious progress, like was done with Joe Newman's patent application.

Geo. W. Hobby

Mr. Howard H Baker Jr.  
Chief of Staff  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

COPY  
TO: Hon. Dingle.

July 24, 1987

Dear Sir:

Re: My letter to you of June 29, 1987

You must have requested that someone from the Patent + Trademark Office reply to me so on July 17, 1987 Mr. Donald J. Quigg send me a full explanation of where matters stand regarding Mr. Newman's patent application. I am most appreciative of the thoroughness of his reply.

Mr. Quigg finished by stating it would be inappropriate to comment further in view of the fact this matter is pending before a U.S. District Court. I certainly understand that it is a necessary and proper "no comment" status, at least until the District Court gets off "dead center" and reaches a decision. Until this time however I do have some observations that might be in order.

It likely is correct policy that no patent be issued until the inventor [in addition to demonstrating that the claimed results can be achieved by submitting an operating demonstration model] can provide a proper and acceptable

explanation of the principles of physics by which the desirable results are being achieved. If so, Mr. Newman, who has only a limited education, will find this extremely difficult without outside professional assistance. So be it.

Never-the-less, in the broader interests of our country [and indeed the world] the magnanimous benefits that could evolve from the commercial developments based on Newman's discovery [assuming its validity] must not be allowed to evaporate just because a full and proper scientific explanation is not yet available from recognized scientists.

An analogous situation exists in the super-conductivity development going on now. Strenuous efforts are being made to further this development and the positive results being achieved have, after the fact, sent the physicists of many labs back to their black boards in their attempt to evolve an acceptable theory of how zero resistance is actually accomplished. The utilization of this important phenomenon is going forward even as the physicists work feverishly to explain the "how and why".

If Mr. Newman can convert mass to energy in a non-pollutioning, non-explosive

The physicists are back to  
 the drawing boards again trying to  
 find out "why"! Positive results should gain even more attention.  
 The "why" can come later.

manner in accordance with Mr. Einstein's formula, this is of exceedingly great importance and a carefully controlled scientific test should be conducted to once and for all establish if energy, in excess of the energy input, is truly generated. These measurements are not difficult. It should not take seven years [since the first patent application] to run such tests. The National Bureau of Standards flawed their test by not measuring the output energy that escaped through the ground wire. Mr. Newman has explained this but the Bureau does not seem interested in repeating the test in a proper manner. How can the District Court resolve the matter without a properly conducted test? All interested are waiting for a legal opinion when what is really needed are some unbiased electrical measurements. Considering the real momentous benefits of cheap energy I would think the Committee on Energy and Commerce would make every effort to either establish the validity of positive tests performed by [and attested to in Judge Jackson's court] a qualified electrical engineer or for ever stop the great interest in this development by exposing the fallacy. After all, it is said ~~to~~ 30 scientists now support Newman's findings. Are they all wrong? It does not seem likely.

A but  
childish error. Years  
have been wasted

If this matter rested solely on the validity or lack of validity of the Laws of Thermodynamics why would it take a District Court over six months of deliberations to render a decision? The Court may just be bothered by substantial evidence that Joseph Newman's machine does in fact generate beneficial excessive energy and doesn't know how to refute it. The Japanese may well make use of this development [and also our delays] and then again our country will have great difficulty in playing "catch-up" with this formidable competitor.

A proper investigation of this 8-year delay of progress would seem to be in order and would you not agree?

Now  
10-Year.

Respectfully yours.

c.c. Donald J. Quigg  
John D. Dingell  
Representative

George W. Hobby  
Chemical Engineer  
8310 Wetherfield Lane  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
45236



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM**

CONTROL NO. ES-89-008182		ACTS NO.		DATE SENT 06/16/89		DATE DUE	
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DEPUTY SECRETARY (DS)				INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (IA)			
UNDER SECRETARY (US)				CONSERVATION & SOLAR ENERGY (CS)			
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CF)				NUCLEAR ENERGY (NE)			
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT (SA)				FOSSIL ENERGY (FE)			
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DIR., OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (DOSE)				ENVIRONMENT (EV)			
PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PA)				RESOURCE APPLICATIONS (RA)			
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (LA)				ENERGY RESEARCH (ER)		X	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (IR)				INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG)			
CONSUMER AFFAIRS (CA)				ADMINISTRATION (AD)			
GENERAL COUNSEL (GC)				CONTROLLER (CR)			
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CP/30			X				
ACTION REQUIRED (ES USE ONLY)				STAFF ACTION SUMMARY			
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APPROVAL				1			
X INFORMATION				2			
CONCURRENCE				3			
COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS				4			
OTHER (SEE REMARKS)				5			
REMARKS: The attached interim reply dated June 16, 1989, was signed by Robert O. Hunter and dispatched in the Office of the Executive Secretariat on June 16, 1989.				6			
				7			
				8			
				9			
				10			
Copies have been provided for your information and files.				REMARKS:			
Copies have been provided to each concurree.							
ES CONTACT: Travis Hulsey, 586-5075							