

memorandum

DATE: APR 27 1989

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

ER-1

SUBJECT:

Cold Fusion

TO:

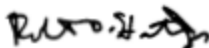
The Secretary

I understand that one outcome of the HSS&T Cold Fusion Hearing held April 26, 1989, was that Chairman Roe (HSS&T) will be sending you a letter urging that you provide assistance to the University of Utah to help resolve the technical issues surrounding their claim of cold fusion.

Most laboratories have not been able to reproduce the heat or radiation (neutrons) observations. The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has been in contact with Professor Pons (U. of Utah). Professor Pons has visited Los Alamos and a preliminary visit by LANL staff has been made to the University of Utah.

At the hearing, Professor Pons stated that he has an agreement with Los Alamos whereby LANL will go to the University of Utah to observe his experimental setup and then disassemble the cell and take it to Los Alamos for further detailed measurements. This will hopefully get around the criticism that other experimenters are not using the "proper" setup and conditions.

In anticipation of Chairman Roe's letter, and as evidence that you are on top of this issue, I recommend that you sign the attached letter to Dr. S. Hecker, Director, LANL. The letter states your interest in the University of Utah/LANL collaboration and requests LANL to help resolve the technical issues regarding cold fusion, as soon as possible.



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

Attachment

APPROVED: _____

DISAPPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker
Director
University of California
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dear Dr. Hecker:

As you are aware, the "cold fusion" phenomenon claimed by the University of Utah researchers and others has not been reproduced in most laboratories that have tried the experiment. I understand your staff is working with Professor Pons (University of Utah) to help resolve the technical issues surrounding reproducibility of the experiment.

It is very important to collaborate with Professor Pons in order to come to a speedy conclusion regarding the occurrence of fusion in the solid state. Please take the necessary steps to help resolve this issue as soon as possible.

I have asked the Director of the Office of Energy Research, Dr. Robert O. Hunter, Jr., to serve as a central point of contact. Please keep him informed of all significant developments.

You and your laboratory staff are to be commended for their efforts on behalf of the Department. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

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