



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May

The Honorable Marilyn Lloyd
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mrs. Lloyd:

Thank you for your letter of April 27, 1989, expressing your desire in having the Department of Energy's national laboratories contribute towards resolving the cold fusion technical debate.

I agree that resolving this debate is important. Towards this end, our laboratories have intensified their research efforts. A meeting of laboratory personnel was held in Washington, D.C., on April 19, 1989, to discuss the cold fusion activities of the various laboratories. Subsequent to this meeting, I sent a memorandum, dated April 24, 1989, copy enclosed, to the laboratory directors encouraging them to continue and intensify their efforts and report to me weekly on their progress. This process is well underway.

In addition, the Department sponsored a workshop on cold fusion held on May 23-25, 1989, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The workshop was coordinated by Los Alamos National Laboratory. There were 435 registrants, with numerous reports from the Department's national laboratories.

Finally, DOE laboratories stand ready to assist any laboratory reporting positive results. A number of our national laboratories are already collaborating with other laboratories to assist in various measurements. Texas A&M University, for example, has provided samples of materials from its experiments in order to allow DOE laboratories to test for the presence of various fusion products.

In summary, we believe that the process of scientific review and assessment of this phenomenon is moving ahead. A consensus on cold fusion verification should emerge in the near future.

Your interest in this subject is appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure