



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 3, 2017

Dr. Jon Menard
NSTX-U Research Director
Princeton Plasma Physics Lab
MS41 C-Site LSB B329
Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

Dear Jon:

First, thank you for your timely solicitation of input for the next NSTX-U five year plan, which was originally expected to span fiscal years 2019 through 2023, at your recent Program Advisory Committee meeting. Also, your efforts to reach out to University leaders during this meeting to more completely integrate them into the strategic planning of the NSTX-U facility is gratefully acknowledged.

While these actions are to be commended, it is recognized within FES that requiring PPPL and the NSTX-U team to prepare an extensive new plan during this critical period of recovery is not appropriate. Most importantly, it is believed that the objectives of the current NSTX-U five year plan, originally proposed to span fiscal years 2014 through 2018, will continue to be wholly relevant beyond 2018. For this reason FES is deferring the requirement to prepare a new plan at this time and will consider the present five year plan to extend to a period of seven years. This means that the next five year plan will need to be submitted and reviewed in the spring or summer of 2020. No amendments or edits to the original document are required. It is our hope that this action may permit NSTX-U researchers, both PPPL staff and outside collaborators, to focus on recovery efforts and revised research activities on other fusion facilities, ahead of the successful resumption of plasma operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh King".

Josh King
Spherical Tokamak Program Manager
For Fusion Energy Sciences