

NSTX Weekly Report (December 22, 2010)

FY 2011 NSTX plasma operations started on October 4, 2010

FY 2011 NSTX Outage started on October 25, 2010

Planned Run Weeks: TBD

Run Weeks Completed: 4.21 run weeks and 839 plasma shots

I am pleased to report that the NSTX-Upgrade project has today received approval by DOE of critical-decision-2 (CD-2). This signifies approval of the performance baseline (the cost and schedule) for the project, and permits the project to enter the final design phase. This is extremely important to fusion energy science and to the lab, and a wonderful event to occur as we enter the holiday. Congratulations to the NSTX-Upgrade team members for their continued outstanding work. The approval to proceed involved extensive review of all aspects of the project. The team's preparedness and performance has been stellar. We are also grateful to our colleagues at DOE, particularly the Office of Fusion Energy Science, for their support of the project and for making the special effort to approve this decision prior to our holiday break. Happy holidays, Stewart Prager (Director, PPPL, Dec. 20, 2010)

Engineering Operations (A. von Halle, C. Neumeier)

The NSTX outage continued this past week with the completion of the removal and cleaning of tiles surrounding the Liquid Lithium Divertor (LLD) plates. Subsequent inspections have revealed problems with LLD plate mounting hardware, and further evaluations are in progress. Also this week, the Bay I port cover was reinstalled, and good progress was made on diagnostic window cleaning. Modifications to the Resistive Wall Mode coils began in support of the new T-FIDA diagnostic installation, and helium and water piping modifications needed for the new MSE-LIF diagnostic continued.

Access to the NSTX test cell will be unavailable this coming holiday week.