

**Sam Berk's Message to APEX Team**  
**February 6, 2003**

Dear APEX Team,

At 4:00 PM EST today, I will join the APEX e-meeting to talk about the FY 04 budget. I am sure that most of you have heard about what the FY 04 Congressional Request Budget or CRB (i.e., the budget request that the President submitted to Congress earlier this week) contains relative to APEX, which is funded out of the MFE Chamber Technology part of the Fusion Technology budget. It is terrible news for APEX and comes at a time when you may have been expecting good things for the Fusion Technology area in light of the US decision to join ITER negotiations and of the US government interest recently expressed in fusion energy development.

In this time of angst and confusion, it is important to keep you as well informed as possible. This will be my goal for today's discussion. I would like for each of you to know that I deeply regret the emotional and psychological pain that you may feel as these events are unfolding. One of my most important jobs is to shelter you from the craziness that sometime goes on in Washington, a place where the technical world meets the political world and the realities of government budgeting. This year, I was not able to provide the buffer that I have in previous years. You will now get a better idea of what people mean when they say "you do not want to see how the sausage gets made".

It might be best to partition the discussion into 3 parts:

- Where are we?
- How did we get here?
- Where do we go from here?

Relative to the first part (where are we?), since the FY 04 CBR has been released to the public, we are able to share with you the detailed budget numbers. Attached are the following documents:

- **OFES one-page summary** <<FY 04 One pager CRB.xls>>
- **Enabling R&D section of the CBR narrative**  
<<IFY2004NarrativeCONG01EN R&D.doc>>
- **Enabling R&D one-page summary** <<04-En R&D CRB-one pager2-04-03.xls>>
- **Enabling R&D budget details by program element** <<04 En R&D-CRB-SORTED-2-04-03.xls>>

The FY 04 budget has the following major features in the Enabling R&D area:

- All of Fusion Technology is being eliminated; closeout costs have been estimated and funds have been allocated for this purpose
- All Fusion Technology activities, except for those in the areas of MFE Safety, Tritium Research, and Neutronics, are being terminated; all MFE Safety and Tritium Research work are preserved by their moving budgets to Plasma Technologies; some Neutronics work is preserved by moving some of the budget to Plasma Technologies
- NSO work is terminated
- IFE systems studies work is terminated

Relative to the second part (how did we get here?), I will explain as much as I can about the budget development process.

**Relative to the third part (where do we go from here?), I invite open discussion. Please note that the following has occurred since the budget was released on Monday:**

**- On Monday afternoon, Anne Davies had a conference call with program leaders (including Charlie Baker) to discuss the budget situation. There was strong support for the idea of restoring full funding to the Fusion Tech. and Advanced Designs areas, which are seen as the "headlights" and "forward-looking" parts of the fusion program. Anne noted that it was not the desire of OFES to reduce either of these program areas in FY 04, but rather it was something that happened amidst a rather complex process of budget formulation involving multiple government agencies before there was a clear position stated by the President and DOE Secretary on the future direction for US fusion research. The program leaders have already begun strategizing on how they might approach the Congress to seek restoration of funding.**

**- On Wednesday afternoon, Mike Roberts had a conference call with the VLT leaders (which includes Mohamed Abdou) on the budget situation. Mike reiterated Anne's themes and made the point that the FY 04 CRB is not consistent with the energy-oriented vision for fusion research expressed by the President in his ITER announcement. Mike feels as many of us do that the FY 04 CRB is not consistent with the President's vision and therefore consistency needs to be achieved.**

**Please understand that OFES and the community greatly appreciate the dedication and high quality work of the**

**APEX team. During the next few months, you will see efforts aimed at assuring Fusion Tech. continues in FY 04 and beyond. By May or June, following the bulk of Congressional budget hearings and subcommittee deliberations, we will have a pretty good idea about what will be the actual budget situation in FY 04.**

**This is a time to be hopeful for the future, but at the same time to be prepared for the worst case scenario. I will be working with Mohamed to prepare for all possible contingencies. The main thing now is to not divert yourself from making further progress on the technical work of APEX. If things do not work out well for APEX in FY 04, which we would know by May or June, you will have plenty of time to prepare for the worst case situation. If this happens, I will be working with you individually on dealing with the consequences.**

**Sam**