



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

September 23, 2004

Office of the Director

Dr. Keith O. Hodgson
Director, Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory
Department of Chemistry
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Keith
Dear Dr. Hodgson:

By this letter, I am charging BERAC to provide advice to the Office of Science on the potential scientific impact of the proposed Facility for the Production of Proteins and Molecular Tags (GTL-1), and some of the major design characteristics essential to its effectiveness.

In its "Report on the Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee's (BERAC) Consideration of the Genomes to Life Facilities Plan", BERAC stated that, "These new facilities need to be brought into operation and be effective if GTL itself is to succeed as a science program." I request that BERAC address the specific impact of GTL-1 on the GTL program.

Questions to be addressed:

1. Why is this facility essential to meeting the scientific goals of the program?
2. Is the facility described the right one in terms of output/capabilities/dimensions to meet the goals?
3. Does it have to be a central facility or can it be distributed?
4. As described does it require a specially designed building or can the needs be met with leased space, equipment, etc.?
5. What scientific probes, such as synchrotron light sources or mass spectrometers, are required to make the facility successful?
6. Does it have to be next to a light source or not?

Finally, recognizing the interrelationship between biology research programs funded at all Federal agencies, I ask that you comment on the role of, interests in, or impacts of GTL-1 on the biology research programs of other agencies.



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I request that BERAC report on its findings and recommendations at its November 3-4, 2004 meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray", written in dark ink.

Raymond L. Orbach
Director