



## U.S. Department of Energy

Fermi Site Office  
Post Office Box 2000  
Batavia, IL. 60510



### U.S. DOE NOvA Project Office

May 9, 2007

Dr. Marvin Marshak  
Institute of Technology Professor  
University of Minnesota  
116 Church Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Marshak,

This letter is to formally notify you that the NOvA Project has successfully achieved a key DOE project milestone, approval of "Critical-Decision-1" (CD-1). This decision, from the office of Dr. Raymond Orbach as Director of the DOE Office of Science and project Acquisition Executive, enables the NOvA project to move from the definition to the execution phase. The achievement of this milestone can be attributed to the hard work, strong support and steady commitment from you, John Cooper the NOvA Project Manager, and the entire NOvA team, from Fermilab, the University of Minnesota and all of the collaborating institutions.

The CD-1 action approves the preliminary cost range and schedule, as well as the project Acquisition Strategy, in which the University of Minnesota will play a key role as the recipient of a proposed DOE Cooperative Agreement. Moving into the execution phase, the University of Minnesota and DOE partnership will be critical as the NOvA Project completes the preliminary design activities and works to balance requirements, cost, schedule and other factors to optimize design, cost and capabilities needed to meet the science mission within a firm project performance baseline.

In addition, the CD-1 accepts the preferred Alternative selection identified for a far detector at Ash River, MN, provided this is supported by the Federal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process, which is well underway. Achieving the next project Critical Decisions (CD-2, which includes approval of the project baseline and CD-3 to start construction) will require completing the NEPA process. The NEPA process is another area where there has been partnership between the University, DOE and Fermilab, to pursue a joint approach to environmental assessment, if possible, and to reduce duplication between NEPA and the State process.

This is an extremely exciting time for the NOvA Project, with so many elements coming together and the promise of great things to come as everyone keeps pulling together. From the standpoint of the Federal Project Office, your efforts and the support of the University of Minnesota are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Pepin T. Carolan  
NOvA Federal Project Director  
DOE Fermi Site Office

Cc:

Pier Oddone, Fermilab  
Hugh Montgomery, Fermilab  
John Cooper, Fermilab  
Joanna Livengood, DOE-FSO  
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