



## Department of Energy

Office of Scientific and Technical Information

Post Office Box 62

Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

August 10, 2016

Re: OSTI-2016-01064-F

Dear Mr. Ravnitzky:

This is in final response to the request for information you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552 on June 22, 2016.

You requested a "copy of records, electronic, or otherwise, of each letter TO and FROM universities, companies, and organizations, from the OSTI 'cold fusion' documents collection." On July 11, 2016, you were emailed an interim response letter informing you of the need for OSTI to obtain release authorization from the Department of Energy. OSTI received notification to release the letters to you in their entirety on August 8, 2016. As a result, OSTI is releasing 72 cold fusion letters in this mailing on a CD-ROM because of the volume and file size of the PDFs.

In addition, there are approximately 13 letters that are currently being reviewed by the DOE's General Counsel Office (GC) for release or redaction. Upon receipt of guidance from GC, OSTI will release in whole or in part.

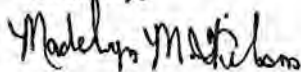
This decision, as well as the adequacy of the search, may be appealed within **90** calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal to [OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov](mailto:OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov), including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. The appeal must contain all of the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either: 1) in the district where you reside; 2) where you have your principal place of business; 3) where DOE's records are situated; or 4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact OSTI's FOIA Public Liaison, Charlene Luther, Office of Preservation and Technology at 865.576.1138 or by mail at the Department of Energy, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer.

The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or about this letter, please contact Madelyn M. Wilson at

Sincerely,



Madelyn M. Wilson  
FOIA Officer  
DOE OSTI  
1 Science.gov Way  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 17, 1989

Professor Harold Lewis  
Professor of Physics  
Physics Department  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

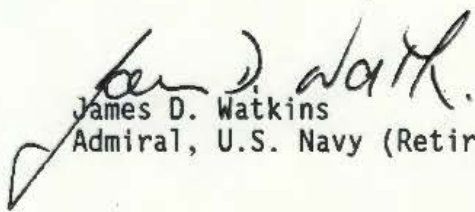
Dear Professor Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 1989, in which you provided us with your thoughts on cold fusion. We understand your concern and we also want to bring the scientific debate to an early conclusion.

For that reason, we have asked the Energy Research Advisory Board (ERAB) to set up a panel to review the overall issue of cold fusion. That panel will be chaired by Professor Norman Ramsey and Professor John Huizenga, and they will hold their first meeting during the Santa Fe Workshop, May 23-25, 1989. Also towards that end, I have asked the Department of Energy laboratories to help unravel the technical issues. In this way we will quickly move to a position where we can make a decision based on the broadest perspective of cold fusion. As you know, muon catalyzed fusion is a form of cold fusion and is recognized as a real phenomenon. We are looking to the ERAB panel to provide us with an overall perspective on this subject.

I appreciate your interest and comments and invite you to provide your thoughts directly to the ERAB panel we have established. Please contact Dr. Robert O. Hunter, Jr., should you desire to appear before the panel or submit any written comments.

Sincerely,

  
James D. Watkins  
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

## **DISCLAIMER**

**Portions of this document may be illegible in electronic image products. Images are produced from the best available original document.**

New Energy Times



# memorandum

DATE: MAY 15 1989

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: ER-1 (Louis Ianniello/586-9776)

SUBJECT: Letter to Professor Harold Lewis on Cold Fusion

TO: The Secretary ~

*Signed  
5/17*

## ISSUE/ACTION STATEMENT

- o Professor Lewis, University of California, has written to you on the subject of cold fusion.

## DISCUSSION

- o Professor Lewis' letter expresses displeasure at the Department's continued support for activities related to cold fusion. The attached letter simply acknowledges that the Department also wants to conclude the debate, but is looking at a broader set of issues and has enlisted the laboratories and ERAB to provide assistance.

## CONCERNS/SENSITIVITIES

- o Professor Lewis is a member of the Advisory Committee of Nuclear Facility Safety.

## RECOMMENDATION

- o Sign the attached letter which, in addition, invites Professor Lewis to provide the ERAB panel with his thoughts on the subject of cold fusion. We have informed ERAB and will make the arrangements if Professor Lewis accepts.

*Robert O. Hunter, Jr.*

Robert O. Hunter, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Energy Research

Attachment:  
Letter to Professor Lewis

# memorandum

DATE: MAY 11 1989

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: ER-1

SUBJECT: Cold Fusion

TO: The Secretary

I received the attached letter from Dr. H. D. Lewis today for your consideration. I am preparing a reply which will include a discussion of the review committee which, in the course of examining the various results, should consider Dr. Lewis' comments.

*Robert O. Hunter, Jr.*  
Robert O. Hunter, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Energy Research

Attachment

cc w/att:  
Steve May  
Gary Gibbs

New Energy Times

**Advisory Committee on Nuclear Facility Safety**

to the  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

May 10, 1989

*Bob*  
**NOTE TO:** Robert O. Hunter, ER-1

*Wally*  
**FROM:** Wallace R. Kornack

**SUBJECT:** E-Mail Message from Dr. Hal Lewis

Professor Hal Lewis, University of California, transmitted today the attached E-Mail letter for Admiral Watkins. He wanted the letter passed on to the Admiral through you.

New Energy Times



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL FORM  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ACTIVITY ADD **DO NOT DETACH FROM ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE** 11:18

SOURCE CODE PM PUBLIC MAIL

REC INT: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTROL NO: E589-007346  
CORR: 05/10/89 DATE RECD: 05/17/89 DATE CNTRL: 05/19/89 DATE DUE: 05/24/89  
LETTER:  MEMO:  TWX:  OTHER:  TO: SECY:  DEP SEC:  UN SEC:  OTHER:

FROM LEWIS, HAROLD CA 0

REMARKS: DOCUMENT CONTROLLED AFTER THE FACT.

SUBJ: POLICY  
ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS  
COLD FUSION

FOR USE BY ACTION OFFICE ONLY

	ACTION REFERRED TO	DATE	RETURN TO	DUE DATE
1				
2				
3				

ACTION TO: ER TYPE ACTION: Prepare final reply SIG OF: S

CONCURRENCE:  
INFORMATION:

FILE CODE: PMLEWIS-E589007346 CONTROL ANALYST: Richard Rosser.5075

**ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR FINAL PROCESSING**

New Energy Times



(Retyped E-Mail Message from Dr. Hal Lewis, 5/10/89)

Dear Admiral Watkins:

While I do serve on one of your advisory committees, I write this as an individual scientist. No support from others is implied, though I have little doubt that it is there.

It was clear from the very beginning that the Utah chemists' claims of limitless free energy from cold fusion were scientifically wrong--- simply error in the laboratory, coupled with inexcusable unwillingness to either admit it or to help others search for the truth---and what little support there was from a few scattered reports of partial confirmation has long since vanished. At the May 1 meeting of the American Physical Society in Baltimore, all of the sources of error were dredged out in embarrassing detail, and I do not know of any reputable scientists---none---who give any residual credence to the claims. It was never the responsibility of the scientific community to find the errors in the Pons/Fleischman experiments, but theirs to convince others that they were right, yet the special circumstances of publicity and politics led to the reversal of roles in this case. Be that as it may, the scientific debate, such as it was, is now over, and there is not, and never was, cold fusion.

Given that, does it not seem improper for the Department to be continuing in throwing good money after bad. Among other things, it is sponsoring a large meeting at Los Alamos in two weeks, devoted to these phoney claims, and adding perhaps several millions of dollars to the large sums already wasted on the subject. It is not too late to simply call off all further waste of Department money. That the Department should have an open mind to scientific advances is of course clear, as is its obligation to separate fact from fancy in the pursuit of those advances. That is not a matter of choice---it is a duty. The Utah people have long since forfeited their right to the benefit of the doubt by their intransigence in refusing others access to the details of their purported experiments. Their behavior is certainly far from the accepted scientific norm, and now verges on fraud, which the Department should not condone.

I urge you to reconsider the Department's continued sponsorship of what has clearly become pseudo-science, both for the good of the Department and for the good of the country. Pseudo-science dilutes the environment in which we must all work, and is a form of intellectual pollution which keeps people from doing their real jobs. Intellectual pollution may be less tangible than other forms for which the Department has sad but acknowledged historic responsibility, but it is no less real, and is no less malodorous.

Sincerely,  
H. W. Lewis

MAY 15 1989

ER-1 (Louis Ianniello/586-9776)

Letter to Professor Harold Lewis on Cold Fusion

The Secretary

ISSUE/ACTION STATEMENT

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RECOMMENDATION

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ER-60  
Lindler  
5/12/89

Robert O. Hunter, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Energy Research

ER-20  
Decker  
5/12/89

Attachment:  
Letter to Professor Lewis

bcc:  
ES(4)  
ER-1(3)  
ER-60(1)  
ER-11(file)  
RMarley(ER-1)

ER-11:L Ianniello:dm:5/12/89:enable/C:HLEWIS



Professor Harold Lewis  
Professor of Physics  
Physics Department  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Dear Professor Lewis:

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Sincerely,

James D. Watkins  
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)