



The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

April 24, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: DOE Laboratory Directors (Attached Distribution List)

SUBJECT: Research on "Cold" Fusion

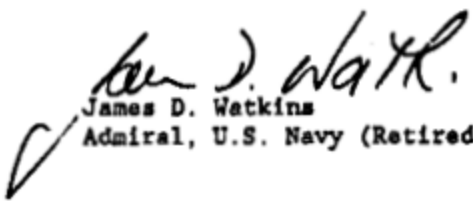
In recent weeks there has been a great deal of interest in the prospects for electrolytic or "cold" fusion in metals, based on experiments at universities in Utah and subsequent experiments done elsewhere. At present the determination of significant quantities of energy from cold fusion are unconfirmed. However, because of the great scientific interest in this phenomena and the enormous potential benefits from practical fusion energy, I encourage you to continue and even intensify research efforts at your laboratories to more clearly understand the phenomena.

Please report your progress weekly, with a first report on Friday April 28, 1989. Items should be reported in the areas listed below. In the first report, I would like a summary of your specific activities in each area.

- o Confirmation of experimental results claimed by others.
- o Chemical assays for chemical reactants and products.
- o Control experiments run with light water.
- o Determinations of mechanisms and rates for fusion reactions in solids.
- o Verification of neutron and/or heat releases observed in the University of Utah experiments.

Submit your report to Dr. Robert O. Hunter, Jr., Director of the Office of Energy Research. He will be my point-of-contact for this activity and will keep me advised of your progress.

Your aggressive and responsible pursuit of clarification of this situation is very important to the Department. Thank you.

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