

# memorandum

DATE: July 11, 1996  
REPLY TO: Energy Research  
ATTN OF:  
SUBJECT: Recommendation 93-2, Nuclear Criticality Capability

TO: Mark Whitaker, EM-06

The Office of Energy Research (ER) has reviewed the report entitled, "The Department of Energy Nuclear Criticality Predictability Program," dated January 17, 1996, released by the Nuclear Criticality Experiments Steering Committee (NCESC). This office concurs in the need to maintain predictive and analytical capabilities in nuclear criticality sufficient to meet the Department's program needs.

In line with short-term NCESC recommendations presented in Option 3 of the above mentioned report, ER will maintain in a state of readiness the Oak Ridge Electron Linear Accelerator (ORELA) and associated experimental apparatus for interested user's activities (not including marginal user's costs) for acquisition of nuclear cross-section measurements relevant to nuclear criticality predictability during Fiscal Year (FY) 1997. In addition, ER will provide a technical expert, up to full time, for liaison to users of the ORELA facility during FY 1997. In this regard, it would be helpful for planning and budgeting purposes to have a clear plan from other organizations concerning what their intended use of ORELA will be over the next one to two years.

If you have any questions regarding our position on these issues, or need further information, please contact Charles Billups at 3-4097.



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