Juzaitis Withdraws as Candidate for LLNL Directorship

University of California and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory officials met with their counterparts at the Department of Energy in early May to try to avoid a repeat of the embarrassment surrounding the near-appointment of physicist Ray Juzaitis as LLNL's new director. Juzaitis, the associate director for weapons physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory, was only 30 minutes away from being named as the new director of LLNL on 26 April, when a phone call from DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham's office put the announcement on hold.

Abraham had received word, apparently through the efforts of Bill Wattenburg, a scientist who has a radio talk show on KGO Radio in San Francisco, that Juzaitis had been one of Wen Ho Lee's supervisors at Los Alamos. Lee, who was accused of security violations in 1999, worked in the division headed by Juzaitis. Several days after the Lee connection came to light, Juzaitis withdrew from consideration for the post in a letter to Richard Atkinson, University of California president. The university oversees LLNL's operations.

"The unwarranted linking of my name to the Wen Ho Lee affair in an attempt to cast a cloud on the appropriateness of my appointment, suggests that the unfounded controversy may hinder my effectiveness in leading the laboratory," Juzaitis wrote. Atkinson responded on 1 May with a statement that said, in part, "The university had reviewed documents relevant to the Lee matter. The documents reveal nothing that would change our evaluation of Dr. Juzaitis as an excellent candidate for the director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Although neither the university, the Department of Energy, nor the National Nuclear Security Administration had called on Dr. Juzaitis to withdraw his candidacy, we respect his decision to do so."

The search for a new director was continuing, with those familiar with the effort confirming that two LLNL scientists, Michael Anastasio, a weapons program leader, and Jeffrey Wadsworth, the deputy director for nonweapons science, were the "inside" candidates. Physicist Steven Koonin, provost of Caltech, was the outside candidate.

JIM DAWSON

NEWS NOTES

Spain offers ITER site. The site of a nuclear power plant that is being dismantled in Vandallós, south of Barcelona on Spain's Mediterranean coast, is in the running to become home to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor.

Spain submitted its bid to host ITER, a joint European-Japanese-Russian-Canadian project intended to demonstrate the feasibility of fusion energy, to the European Commission on 17 April. Canada had earlier offered to host ITER outside Toronto, and Japan and France are preparing site bids. The impending site decision "will be very competitive," says Carlos Alejaldre, director of the fusion lab at CIEMAT, Spain's national center for energy research, and a member of the ITER negotiating team. "But we can fight. We have a chance."

ITER's funding scheme is still under discussion, but the host country will likely have to ante up around one-fifth of the roughly $4 billion to build ITER; if Spain or France hosts ITER, that amount would be split with the European Commission. The host would also contribute to ITER's remaining construction and operating costs.

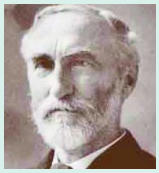
CIEMAT/ITER TEAM

A MODEL OF ITER (foreground) superimposed on a photo of the proposed site in Spain.

In other ITER news, the possibility of the US's rejoining the project after having pulled out a few years ago is sounding increasingly plausible. In his keynote speech at a 2 May meeting of G8 energy ministers in Detroit, Michigan, US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said, "President Bush is particularly interested in the potential of the international effort known as ITER and has asked us to seriously consider American participation." For its part, the US fusion community plans to decide in August whether to back ITER or one of two smaller burning plasma experiments. —TF ■

WEB WATCH

http://www.aip.org/history/gap



In 1976, to celebrate the US bicentennial, the American Physical Society published a collection entitled **Selected Papers of Great American Physicists**. Now, thanks to AIP's Center for History of Physics, the collection, which includes a foreword by Willy Fowler, is available online in its entirety.

http://web.mit.edu/nnf

Exploring the rich and interesting behavior of non-Newtonian fluids, such as the gooey polymer in okra, is the focus of Gareth McKinley's **Non-Newtonian Fluids Research Group** at MIT. The group's Web site includes several movies of its experiments.

http://www.oceandrilling.org

The aim of the **Ocean Drilling Program** (ODP) is to tap the wealth of geological and environmental information contained in the rocks and sediments of the ocean seabed. ODP's extensive Web site describes the program, the data that have been gathered, and the scientific results obtained so far.

http://www.aip.org/history/lawrence

AIP's Center for History of Physics has added another online exhibit to its growing collection of offerings. Written by Caltech's Peter Westwick, **Lawrence and the Cyclotron** follows the life and times of Ernest Lawrence, whose invention of the cyclotron earned him the 1939 Nobel Prize in Physics.

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please e-mail us at ptwww@aip.org.

Compiled by **CHARLES DAY**