Dear DUSEL Enthusiast,

Thank you for accepting a role as a working group leader for the DUSEL MREFC proposal. We anticipate that DUSEL will be one of the major scientific investments made by our country in the next decade. Your leadership will play an important role in the success of the effort, and we appreciate your commitment to the science that will be accomplished at DUSEL.

The ultimate goal of your working group is to develop a credible plan for a set of experiments to be included in the comprehensive MREFC proposal to build and commission a DUSEL. The MREFC proposal will be submitted in December 2009 and will include a complete justification of the science and a reasoned definition for feasibility of construction and execution.

Your role as working group leader will be to assemble and organize a group of investigators to craft a Preliminary Design Proposal for experiments to be included in the MREFC proposal. A Preliminary Design Proposal is a significant document, whose structure and content is outlined in the NSF Large Facilities Manual (NSF 07-38, http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf0738/nsf0738.pdf). The proposal from your working group will be peer-reviewed and the outcome of this review will determine whether the proposal moves forward as part of the MREFC process. To make your proposal as strong as possible, it is critical that your working group be open to ideas and investigators from across the community. We have assembled a preliminary list of investigators who may be interested in participating, and we urge you to contact others who may bring new ideas and contributions. Ultimately, the success of your working group will depend on the team of investigators who are participating.

The first big milestone is a workshop in Lead, South Dakota, in April. This meeting will be an opportunity for your working group to get together and discuss ideas. Travel support is likely available for this meeting. The Preliminary Design Proposal is due in May, 2009, and other milestones are identified below. Immediate activities involve the assembling of an experimental plan and an initial project team (March 10) on which to build at the April workshop in Lead (April 20-22). We plan to share your initial plans with NSF in mid-March, to develop impetus for DUSEL. Thus, the commitment is significant, as are the likely scientific rewards.

It is important to recognize that there will be several avenues for supporting your working group. The NSF is scheduled to release an RFP for S-4 funding, which is intended to support the development of Preliminary Design Proposals; these S-4 proposals are expected to be due in July. We are also investigating opportunities for additional funding at NSF and DOE. In addition, the DUSEL Experiment Development Committee (DEDC) will be sponsoring several workshops to refine ideas as your proposal takes shape over the next 16 months. And of course we will also be available to provide guidance and support throughout the entire proposal preparation process.

For the DEDC: Derek Elsworth, Larry Murdoch, Tullis Onstott

Proposed Project Timetable

2008 ----------		
Pre-workshop:	Invite proponents, solicit initial input, plan mini-symposium agenda	[March 10th]
	Complete initial agenda and one-page white paper	[April 1st]
Lead ISE Workshop:	Craft ISE module: objectives, approach, expected results	[April 20]
	Present strawman outline at close, plan proposal	[April 22]
	NSF S-4 Proposal: Submit proposal for initial design of component ISE	[June 30th]
	S-4 funding available from NSF	[expected Oct]
Grantees Meeting:	Summary of design progress	[Dec AGU]
2009 ----------		
	Preliminary Design proposals due	[May]
Grantees Meeting	Final report on ISE design for incorporation into CDR/MREFC	[May AGU]
	Initial Suite of Experiments announced	[July]
MREFC	Assembly of MREFC and submission for funding	[December]
2010 ----------		
2011-2016	ISEs begin	